

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Poland

PL-Applied Research Research

2020

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Programme Operator (PO) respected the time schedule established for the Programme for 2020.

In the reporting period the PO conducted the assessment of proposals submitted in the POLNOR 2019 and POLNOR CCS 2019 calls as well as selection of proposals for funding. In POLNOR 2019 call 38 proposals were funded of which 34 project contracts were signed in 2020. In POLNOR CCS 2019 call 6 proposals were selected for funding and all project contracts were signed in 2020 .

In January 2020 the PO organised the meeting of the IdeaLab Panel of Experts in order to select participants of the IdeaLab workshop 'Cities for the future: services and solutions'. The interactive and intensive workshop took place on 2-6 March 2020 in Otwock, Poland. Then the PO launched the IdeaLab Call for Full Proposals. After the evaluation and selection procedure 3 projects were recommended for funding under this call.

As a result of the POLNOR 2019, POLNOR CCS 2019 Call and the IdeaLab Call for Full Proposals 47 Polish-Norwegian research consortia received positive funding decisions. Among the funded POLNOR projects 7 are led by young researchers. 36 collaborative agreements between research organisations and companies for POLNOR 2019 and POLNOR CCS 2019 calls were signed in total by the end of the reporting period.

On 28 September 2020 the PO launched the Small Grant Scheme (SGS) Call that supports female researchers in applied technical science. There was a great interest in this call resulting in 337 submitted applications. The evaluation of project proposals is planned to be completed in II quarter of 2021. The process of signing the project contracts with the beneficiaries will start afterwards.

In the reporting period the implementation of the Programme was proceeding as planned in close cooperation with the Donor Program Partner – the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and under supervision of the National Focal Point. However, the PO had to adjust the Programme implementation to the new circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, the majority of lessons learned was connected with coronavirus pandemic. The PO gathered a significant experience in organising on-line meeting as most of the meetings (e.g. all Programme Committee meetings in 2020) and events (e.g. SGS info-days) were held on-line. The PO also used to a greater extent an electronic qualified signature and electronic version of documents.

The main communication activities done by the PO were two online info days of the SGS Call in October 2020 attended by 289 participants. The PO also participated in the online meeting organized for Norwegian partners by the DPP (RCN) on 27 May 2020 in order to present information about contracting and implementation of bilateral projects. The most important information was continuously posted at the 'News' section on the main website of NCBR, NCBR's Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn profiles and NCBR Newsletter.

The overall risk of the Programme has not changed. One risk is not applicable anymore i.e. difficulties with initiating cooperation between partners from Poland and Donor States. In terms of the identified risks mitigation the cooperation with RCN is of crucial importance.

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme context

In 2020 the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic was the genuine game changer. This has affected many aspects of operations carried out under the Programme. All PC meetings in 2020 were held via audio-visual equipment and similarly other meetings and events since the end of March 2020. Moreover, based on national and internal regulations the PO employees transitioned to remote work during the pandemic.

Despite specific circumstances the main outcomes of the Programme implementation in 2020 were achieved: selection of proposals for funding under POLNOR 2019 and POLNOR CCS 2019 calls as well as signing projects contracts. Moreover, the IdeaLab Call for Full Proposals and SGS Call were launched. In case of the former the funded projects were selected regardless of the extension of the deadline to submit IdeaLab full proposals from 18 May 2020 to 8 June 2020 due to coronavirus epidemic. In case of the latter, in spite of the pandemic, the call has been very successful. All actors defined the necessities that enhanced their flexibility to the dynamic and variable situation.

As far as legislative changes at national level are concerned the new regulation on granting state aid through the National Centre for Research and Development (Journal of Laws item 1456, 2020) was introduced in the second half of 2020 constituting the legal basis of SGS Call. However, this change did not affect the procedure of granting state aid in the Programme.

On the European level, NCBR joined the first 9 partnerships under Horizon Europe for the years 2021-2027 and is preparing for more in the following years. In the future this may provide an opportunity for beneficiaries of the Programme to participate in other international grant programmes and initiatives.

2. Results

Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Polish applied research

The PO aimed at achieving the Outcome 1: "Enhanced performance of Polish applied research" through organisation of several competitive calls for proposals. In the reporting period each of these calls proceeded according to its schedule and resulted in achievements of some of the outputs listed under "Outcome 1".

In II quarter of 2020 the evaluation of project proposals submitted in POLNOR 2019 and POLNOR CCS 2019 calls was completed. As a result 38 proposals were selected for funding in the POLNOR Call, 6 in the POLNOR CCS Call. Selected proposals received funding decisions and

proceeded to signing the project contracts with the PO. Signing of project contracts with the beneficiaries started in III quarter of 2020. By the end of the reporting period all project contracts in the POLNOR CCS Call were signed. In the POLNOR 2019 Call 34 project contracts were signed, with 4 still in the negotiation phase.

On 14-15 January 2020 the IdeaLab Panel of Experts selected workshop candidates and substitutes, taking into account evaluations, balance between countries, institutions, gender balance, mix of people with various areas of expertise and at different stages of career. The IdeaLab workshop took place on 2-6 March 2020 in Otwock. Participants from Poland and Norway cooperated with each other in order to create innovative research ideas for products and services for the cities of the future. They were assisted by mentors and director (international experts) and the facilitators. Participants of the workshop found the event a great learning experience and therefore it might contribute to achieve the Outcome 1. As one of the participants said: “[My IdeaLab was] exhausting, interesting, fun, stressful, inspiring..... I have learned a lot both about myself, but also from different fields. I have got a lot of new ideas for research for the future as well.”

After the IdeaLab workshop the PO launched the IdeaLab Call for Full Proposals. As a result of the call 3 research projects were recommended for funding and 3 more projects were on the reserve list. The PO asked the National Focal Point to consider the request for additional funds under EEA FM to fund the projects from the reserve list. The proposal can be subject of negotiation between the Focal Point and the FMO. In case of a positive decision the projects’ end dates will be close to the final cost eligibility date. The grant contracts of recommended projects are currently under negotiations, therefore the results of the projects will be shown in the next APRs.

As regards the SGS Call for female researchers in technical areas of science, in the reporting period the submission of proposals took place between 28 September 2020 to 11 December 2020. 337 proposals were submitted and the total requested funding amounted to over 55 mln euro. By the end of reporting period the submitted proposals were in the stage of formal assessment, therefore they cannot contribute to outcome and output indicators in this APR. The evaluation will be completed in II quarter of 2021. The process of signing of project contracts with the beneficiaries of the calls will start in III quarter of 2021.

Due to the fact that majority of selected projects in calls: POLNOR 2019, POLNOR CCS 2019 and IdeaLab Call for Full Proposals are either in initial phase of operation or do not have their project contracts signed yet, only some of the indicators related to Outcome 1 and its outputs can be reported.

In particular, as regards the Outcome “Enhanced performance of Polish applied research” the only indicator that can be reported at this stage is the “Number of signed collaborative agreements between research organisations and companies involved in the programme”. By the end of reporting period there were 36 such agreements (project contracts) signed, out of which 34 were in the POLNOR call and 2 in the POLNOR CCS call. 4 additional agreements between research organisations and companies are foreseen to be signed in year 2021.

Regarding specific outputs for this outcome, the following selected output and their indicators can be reported.

Output 1.1 “Support to technology transfer for applied research to R&D based SMEs provided” – this output is reflected by number of SMEs participating in project consortia, carrying out projects in POLNOR and POLNOR CCS Calls and is parametrized by the indicator “number of SMEs supported”. At the end of reporting period there were 30 such SMEs.

Output 1.4 “Support to young researchers provided” – this output is reflected by number of projects led by Principal Investigators who meet formal criteria of “young researchers” according to Polish law. This output is parametrized by the indicator “Number of grant projects lead by young researchers”. At the end of reporting period there were 7 such projects: PL-Applied Research-0001, PL-Applied Research-0002, PL-Applied Research-0024, PL-Applied Research-0028, PL-Applied Research-0031, PL-Applied Research-0035, PL-Applied Research-0040. This means that the target value of 5, stipulated in Annex 1 to Programme Agreement, was exceeded. In opinion of the PO, this reflects a great interest in the Programme among early stage researchers as well as a need for schemes targeted at young researchers. Apart from projects led by young researchers, mentoring plans for young researchers are provided in all other POLNOR projects.

Output 1.5 “Support to carbon capture and storage research (CCS)” – this output is reflected by projects in the POLNOR CCS Call and is parameterized by the indicator “number of CCS projects with support for a pre-commercial phase”. At the end of reporting period there was 1 such project (PL-Applied Research-0039). Due to the fact that there will be no more calls for bilateral projects within the Programme the target value of 2, stipulated in Annex 1 to Programme Agreement is likely not to be met. This is in accordance with initial predictions of the PO, that due to highly challenging nature of CCS proposals, projects with pre-commercialisation phase may be met with limited interest.

Pre-defined projects

not applicable

Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme

As a result of the POLNOR 2019, POLNOR CCS 2019 and the IdeaLab Call for Full Proposals 47 research consortia consisting of Polish and Norwegian entities received positive funding decisions. In the reporting period 40 projects involving the cooperation of a donor project partner (Norway) signed grants agreements and consortium agreements, including 34 projects in POLNOR 2019 Call and 6 projects in POLNOR CCS Call - Bilateral Output 1: "Cooperation between beneficiary and donor state entities supported" (table in "Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects" provides information on 42 project contracts since it also includes 2 project contracts signed in 2021.

On 27 May 2020 the DPP together with the PO organised a webinar on project implementation. Over 100 Norwegian participants (POLNOR 2019 and POLNOR CCS 2019 projects' beneficiaries) participated in the event. The aim of the event was to help consortia to negotiate consortium agreements and to explain the rules of the project implementation.

The IdeaLab workshop that was organised by the PO with cooperation with the DPP (RCN) in 2-6 March 2020 in Otwock, Poland helped to establish new research consortia between Polish and Norwegian researchers. 24 researchers from Poland and 11 researchers from Norway participated in the event and worked together to create project ideas for the cities of the future. As one of the participants said "[The IdeaLab workshop] saved plenty of time that usually takes months to build a team and discuss research ideas. It was very intense and fast in building relationships and teams".

In the reporting period three Programme Committee meetings took place:

- 31.03.-1.04.2020 – dedicated to selection of projects in POLNOR and POLNOR CCS 2019 Calls,
- 25.06.2020 – dedicated to approval of SGS Call documentation,
- 22.09.2020 – dedicated to selection of projects in the IdeaLab Call for Full proposals.

Apart from the above mentioned events, issues concerning the Programme implementation were discussed on day-to-day basis between the representatives of the PO and the DPP.

3. Implementation

Conformity with specific requirements

- *The National Focal Point shall ensure that pursuant to Article 1.5.2 of the Regulation that the Programme Operator shall ensure that any additional provisions to the implementation of the Programme shall be kept to a minimum, and to this end the Donor Programme Partner shall be closely involved in and effectively contribute to the development of the project contract template and other templates of document(s) relevant to the implementation of the programme, especially those affecting the relation of the project promoter and partner(s).*

The documentation prepared by the PO was consulted with the DPP and the NFP. All queries were always explained with the reference to PO procedures as well as Polish and EU legislation. During a webinar on project implementation in May 2020 the DPP and the PO presented the common interpretation of provisions of a template partnership agreement. In the course of a contracting phase the PO and DPP acted together and supported each other when answering questions from donor project partners.

- *The National Focal Point shall ensure that the Programme Operator closely cooperates during the implementation of the programme with the Programme Operator of the Basic Research Programme in Poland.*

The PO worked in close cooperation with the PO of the Basic Research Programme - National Science Centre in Cracow. Both POs exchanged their experiences and attended meetings of their Programme Committees and other events such as webinars on project implementation organised for Basic Research Programme and Applied Research Programme. The PO of the Basic Research Programme shared their valuable experience concerning the organisation of Idealab and participated as an observer in IdeaLab workshop 'Cities for the Future: Services and Solutions'. The cooperation was very helpful and fruitful for both POs.

Cooperation with International Partner Organisations (IPOs)

In the reporting period the PO did not cooperate with International Partner Organisations (IPOs).

C. LEARNING

1. Monitoring

According to the time schedule of the Programme the process of signing of project contracts started in III quarter of 2020. Therefore, the project monitoring will commence in 2021.

A monitoring plan for the next reporting period is an Annex 5 to this Programme report.

2. Evaluation

In the reporting period the PO did not carry out any evaluation.

3. Lessons learned

During the reporting period the PO had to adjust the Programme implementation to 'the new reality' caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the majority of lessons learned is connected with coronavirus pandemic.

1) On-line meetings. During the reporting period most of the events were held on-line due to the pandemic outbreak. The PO's experience as regard to these kind of communication is very positive. The on-line events can host more participants than physical meetings. For example, 289 participants in total attended the info-days for SGS Call (on 13.10.2020 and 21.10.2020) and over 100 participants attended a webinar on project implementation (27.05.2020). The on-line events can be very successful, however the content need to be adjusted into new way of communication (e.g. shorter time of the meeting compared to f2f meeting).

All Programme Committee meetings in 2020 were held on-line. The 3rd PC Meeting (31.03.-1.04.2020) was especially challenging, when the PC discussed all ranking lists of projects from the POLNOR 2019 and POLNOR CCS 2019 calls which were organised concurrently.

The PO plans to continue organisation of the on-line meetings, during the pandemic. When the pandemic is over some of events can be still organized on-line.

2) Usage of electronic qualified signature and electronic version of documents. During the pandemic electronic documents (signed by electronic qualified signature) have become more

popular and the internal procedures of the PO were adjusted. Electronic qualified signature was used to sign the PO's internal documents, as well as more documents were signed with electronic qualified signature by our beneficiaries. For example, the applicants in SGS Call could agree to send electronic version of documents (e.g. funding decision) via e-PUAP platform and a vast majority of them did it. It means that more documents during the Programme implementation will be send to and from beneficiaries in electronic version.

3) Improvements in the Programme Operator's Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS). Learning from the experience from the POLNOR and POLNOR CCS calls, the PO implemented some improvements in the EPSS in order to make it clearer for applicants (e.g. simpler validation of the application by applicant before submitting the project proposal) in the IdeaLab Call for Full Proposals and SGS Call. Moreover, the PO takes advantage of this experience to introduce further improvements in its on-line system used for next phases, i.e. project contracting and monitoring.

Additionally, due to the changes in the PO's internal regulations in the SGS Call, applicants were not obliged to submit the documents regarding the state aid, when applying for grant, therefore the application process was simplified for enterprises.

D. ANNEXES

- 1. Updated results (indicator achievements)**
- 2. Communication**
- 3. Overview of contracted projects**
- 4. Risk management**
- 5. Monitoring plan**
- 6. Evaluation report**
- 7. List of individual mobilities**

Annex 1: Updated results (indicator achievements)

Objective: Enhanced research-based knowledge development								
Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Polish applied research								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of new products/technologies developed	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	50	The indicator will be delivered after submission of annual reports from projects funded.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of registered applications for Intellectual Property Protection	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	50	The indicator will be delivered after submission of annual reports from projects funded.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	300	The indicator will be delivered after submission of annual reports from projects funded.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								
<i>Gold open access</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Pending open access</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Other</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

Number of joint, peer-reviewed scientific publications in applied research submitted	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	100	The indicator will be delivered after submission of annual reports from projects funded.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								
<i>Gold open access</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Pending open access</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Other</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of signed collaborative agreements between research organisations and companies involved in the programme	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	36	45	Number of verified copies of signed partnership agreements between research organisations and companies involved in the Programme in 2020 (POLNOR and POLNOR CCS)
Output 1.1: Support to technology transfer for applied research to R&D based SMEs provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of SMEs supported	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	30	50	Number of SMEs in projects for which project contracts were signed in 2020 (POLNOR, POLNOR CCS).
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								

<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-
Output 1.2: Support to researchers conducting applied research provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of donor states' researchers supported	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	100	The indicator will be delivered after submission of annual reports from projects funded.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Polish researchers supported	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	400	The indicator will be delivered after submission of annual reports from projects funded.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Output 1.3: Support to women researchers provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		

			reporting period					
Number of female researchers going abroad for research	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	50	The indicator will be delivered after submission of annual reports from projects funded.
Number of female researchers supported in applied research projects	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	250	The indicator will be delivered after submission of annual reports from projects funded.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Output 1.4: Support to young researchers provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of grant projects lead by young researchers	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	7	5	Projects led by young researchers for which project contracts were signed in 2020 (POLNOR)
Number of mentor-mentee relationships established for young researchers	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	50	The indicator will be delivered after submission of annual reports from projects funded.
Output 1.5: Support to carbon capture and storage research (CCS)								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of donor states' researchers supported for CCS Projects	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	15	The indicator will be delivered after submission of annual reports from projects funded.

<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Polish researchers supported for CCS Projects	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	0	55	The indicator will be delivered after submission of annual reports from projects funded.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Number of CCS projects with support for a pre-commercial phase	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	1	2	The achievement reported is lower than the target showing the anticipated little interest in pre-commercial phase in CCS projects.
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Poland and donors states	Scale 1-7	TBD, Servey level	-	-	-	-	4.5, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase	-

							on the baseline value	
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Beneficiary State</i>								
<i>Bulgaria</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Croatia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cyprus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Czech Republic</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Estonia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Greece</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Hungary</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Latvia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Lithuania</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Malta</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Poland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Portugal</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Romania</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Slovakia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Slovenia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level of satisfaction with the partnerships	Scale 1-7	TBD, Servey level	-	-	-	-	4.5, Target is ≥4.5, and an	-

							increase on the baseline value	
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Beneficiary State</i>								
<i>Bulgaria</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Croatia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cyprus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Czech Republic</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Estonia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Greece</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Hungary</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Latvia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Lithuania</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Malta</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Poland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Portugal</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Romania</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Slovakia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Slovenia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Share of cooperating organisations who apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	50, Target is	-

							minimum 50 %	
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Beneficiary State</i>								
<i>Bulgaria</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Croatia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Cyprus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Czech Republic</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Estonia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Greece</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Hungary</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Latvia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Lithuania</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Malta</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Poland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Portugal</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Romania</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Slovakia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Slovenia</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of joint applications for further funding	Number	0	0 (APR 2019)	-	-	0	5	The indicator will be delivered after submission of annual reports from projects funded.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								
<i>Gold open access</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Pending open access</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Other</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between beneficiary and donor state entities supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline	Achievements until end of previous reporting period	Achievements until end of December 2020			Target	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Value		
Number of projects involving the cooperation of a donor project partner	Number	0	0 (IFR 2020)	-	-	40	TBD, TBD	Number of signed project contracts in 2020 (POLNOR and POLNOR CCS)
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	-	-	-	40	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-

Annex 2: Communication summary

a. Visibility of the Grants and the donors

The main communication activities done by the PO were two online info days dedicated to SGS Call on 13 and 21 October 2020. During those meetings the PO provided general information about the Programme and information on application rules and timeframe of the SGS Call. The online meetings were attended by 289 participants.

The PO also participated in the online meeting organized for Norwegian partners by the DPP (RCN) on 27 May 2020. The PO informed about contracting and project implementation for POLNOR and POLNOR CCS projects. The online meeting were attended by over 100 participants.

During the IdeaLab workshop the roll-up with logotypes of EEA and Norway Grants and NCBR with slogan "Working together for a green, competitive and inclusive Europe" were presented. Moreover, Programme gadgets and participant booklets were distributed among the participants. To ensure visibility of the SGS Call the graphics of the call was designed.

Additionally the press advertisements in the national range newspaper were published after the IdeaLab for Full Proposals and SGS calls were open. The most important information was also posted at the 'News' section on the main website of the NCBR, on the NCBR's Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn profiles and NCBR Newsletter.

b. Communication with the National Focal Point

All the information concerning the PO's activities was delivered directly to the Programme coordinator in the NFP. News was then shared through the official media channels of the NFP.

c. Website and social media

The PO regularly posts information about the Programme on the webpage dedicated to the Programme in Polish and English language versions. The webpage is placed under the main NCBR website:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/iii-edycja-funduszy-norweskich-i-eog>

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

The most important information was also posted in the 'News' section on the main website of the NCBR (both in Polish and English versions), on the NCBR's Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn profiles and NCBR Newsletter.

The main website of the NCBR and webpage dedicated to the Programme comply with responsive web design and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines for the visually impaired.

Additionally the PO took part in the Christmas campaign on social media organized by the FMO, in which the Director of NCBR was quoted.

d. Best practice examples

As POLNOR and POLNOR CCS projects are in early stage of implementation examples of interesting projects from this Programme relevant for communication purposes will be presented in next APR.

From the PO perspective particular attention was paid to promotional and communication activities related to the IdeaLab due to its novel character and innovative way of generating research projects coupled with real-time peer-review. In the previous reporting period the IdeaLab 'Cities for the future: services and solutions' graphics was designed and the invitation to propose candidates for participation in the IdeaLab workshop was widely advertised. In the reporting period information about the IdeaLab workshop 'Cities for the future: services and solutions' and results of the call was on the NCBiR's Facebook several times. The funded projects will start their implementation in early 2021. Services and solutions for the cities of the future will be designed by three interdisciplinary Polish-Norwegian consortia. One of them will work on a project on the methodology of the process of replacing coal stoves with heating systems powered by renewable sources. An international team of experts also highly appreciated the innovative idea to reduce car traffic in cities and the interactive system to promote an ecological lifestyle. The communication activities with respect to these projects will continue, e.g. promotional article.

More information: <https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr-en/idealab>.

The IdeaLab promotion history on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/NCBiR/posts/2663848500340660>

<https://www.facebook.com/NCBiR/posts/2924422827616558>

<https://www.facebook.com/NCBiR/posts/2926561817402659>

<https://www.facebook.com/NCBiR/photos/a.234656986593169/3560268270698674/>

e. Multimedia

The video reports and presentations of the online info days are available on the Programme webpage: <https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr-en/presentations-from-the-meetings>.

Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

Outcome	Projects	#	# of donor project partners	Amount contracted	% of outcome budget contracted
Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Polish applied research	Pre-defined	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Contracted through open calls	42	40	€ 59,202,086	80.92 %
	Contracted through small grants scheme	0	0	€ 0	0.00 %
	Total Outcome 1	42	40	€ 59,202,086	80.92 %
Programme	Total	42	40	€ 59,202,086	80.92 %

Annex 4: Risk management

Programmatic risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A
underspending of funds allocated to the projects	Both objectives	3	2	2.45	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	continuation of actions described above				
	Description of actual response	ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, requesting for regular teleconferences to verify and unify all questionable areas associated with the proper Programme management, policy of financial flexibility in reference to project implementation				
	Planned future response	ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, requesting for regular teleconferences to verify and unify all questionable areas associated with the proper Programme management, policy of financial flexibility in reference to project implementation, ongoing analysis of use of funds in projects; early identification of savings in the projects				
different understanding of formal guidelines and criteria related to cooperation within the Programme	Both objectives	3	3	3.00	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	continuation of actions described above				
	Description of actual response	ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, requesting for regular teleconferences to verify and unify all questionable areas associated with the proper Programme management, regular meetings of employees involved in Programme preparation, implementation and completion				
	Planned future response	ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, requesting for regular teleconferences to verify and unify all questionable areas associated with the proper Programme management, regular meetings of employees involved in Programme preparation, implementation and completion				

changes in Polish law and/or Donor States' law	Both objectives	2	3	2.45	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	continuation of actions described above				
	Description of actual response	day-by-day overview of law modification and estimating its influence on the Programme assumptions, ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NCP in Poland to find acceptable solutions of preventing the risk of incompatibility with The Programme requirements and to moderate the delays in ongoing projects				
	Planned future response	day-by-day overview of law modification and estimating its influence on the Programme assumptions, ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NCP in Poland to find acceptable solutions of preventing the risk of incompatibility with The Programme requirements and to moderate the delays in ongoing projects				
lower spending on programme management related to COVID-19	Both objectives	3	2	2.45	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, regular teleconferences to verify and unify all questionable areas associated with the proper Programme management; flexible approach to promotional and communication activities				
underachievement of indicators agreed in the results framework in Annex I of the Programme Agreement	Both objectives	3	1	1.73	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	on time implementation of calls (selection, signing of project contracts etc.), monitoring of funded projects on the basis of periodic reports				
Operational risks						
Risk description	Risk related to	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score	Response type	Risk N/A
	Both objectives	1	4	2.00	Mitigate	Yes

difficulties with initiating cooperation between partners from Poland and Donor States	Description of planned response	Bilateral fund actions				
	Description of actual response					
	Planned future response					
delays in call launch and project selection	Both objectives	3	4	3.46	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	continuation of actions described above				
	Description of actual response	involvement at an early stage of programming departments and teams of PO working on research programme; careful planning of activities in cooperation between all respective departments of the PO; prompt reaction for the delays				
	Planned future response	involvement at an early stage of programming departments and teams of PO working on research programme; careful planning of activities in cooperation between all respective departments of the PO; prompt reaction for the delays				
failure to achieve goals and results of the projects	Both objectives	3	4	3.46	Mitigate	No
	Description of planned response	as described above				
	Description of actual response	Contact with: PPs to know irregularities/delays in the projects, DPPs to solve misunderstandings/conflicts.				

		Ongoing supervision, e.g. assessment of annual reports (monitoring the status of goals/results); project contracts provide the possibility of: - extension of project duration in case of justified delays - adequate modification of research tasks after a positive recommendation of an independent expert in particularly justified cases (friendly scientific goals and objectives management and supervision)		
	Planned future response	Contact with: PPs to know irregularities/delays in the projects, DPPs to solve misunderstandings/conflicts. Ongoing supervision, e.g. assessment of annual reports (monitoring the status of goals/results); project contracts provide the possibility of: - extension of project duration in case of justified delays - adequate modification of research tasks after a positive recommendation of an independent expert in particularly justified cases (friendly scientific goals and objectives management and supervision)		
Overall risk of the programme				
		Likelihood	Consequence	Risk score
OVERALL RISK OF THE PROGRAMME		2	4	2.83

Annex 5: Monitoring plan

Please note this Annex is uploaded separately and is not visible in this document. Please download and print separately if needed.

Annex 6: Evaluation report

Not Available