



UNIwersytet Jagielloński  
w Krakowie

Prorektor ds. badań naukowych

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**COMMUNICATION  
BY JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY  
VICE-RECTOR FOR RESEARCH  
of 28 October 2021**

**on: submitting proposals in the programme by the Ministry of Education and Science:  
"ARTIQ – AI Centres of Excellence".**

This is to inform you that the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) and the National Science Centre (NCN) have jointly announced the **first "ARTIQ – AI Centres of Excellence" call** for projects, seeking to establish three AI Centres of Excellence (AI CE).

The call for proposals at the NCBR is open until 20 December 2021,

4:00 p.m.. Terms and conditions of applying in the call are available

on the websites:

- NCBR: <https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/konkurs-artiq-centra-doskonalosci-ai>
- NCN: <https://www.ncn.gov.pl/aktualnosci/2021-07-30-ogloszenie-konkursu-artiq>
- CAWP: [www.cawp.uj.edu.pl](http://www.cawp.uj.edu.pl) under tab 'Open calls' → 'National Centre for Research and Development' and 'National Science Centre'

**Programme description:**

The NCBR in cooperation in the NCN has announced a call for proposals, in which funding will be awarded to projects found to contribute the most to the upgrade of Poland's R&D potential in the area of artificial intelligence.

This objective will be achieved with the launch of **three AI Centres of Excellence**, conceived as highly specialised research teams based at Polish entities, managed by high-performing world-acclaimed researchers with outstanding achievements in commercialization and business cooperation ventures.

In each of the AI Centres of Excellence research teams centred around Leaders recruited abroad will carry out projects featuring basic research, industrial research and research and development or pre-implementation work in AI, aimed at achieving quantifiable commercialization results.

AI Centres of Excellence will be launched at the so-called Host Institutions, which will be responsible for creating conditions required by the teams to meet their research objectives.

The call was preceded by a survey of potential in the form of applications for Host Institutions. **A list of Host Institutions has been published on the NCBR and NCN's websites.** The list has been compiled for the future Leader's convenience, to help them find the entity at which the AI Centre of Excellence will be established. A future Leader may initiate cooperation with a Host Institution from the list or submit a proposal for cooperation with an entity from outside the list, provided that it meets the conditions of participation for a Host Institution specified in the call's terms and conditions.

The following may enter in the call as Host Institutions:

1. universities,
2. federations of science and higher education entities,
3. research institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences,
4. research institutes,
5. international research institutes,
6. Łukasiewicz Centre,
7. institutes operating within the Łukasiewicz Research Network,
8. Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences,
9. other entities involved in independent research on an independent and continuous basis,
10. research centres of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

**The Host Institutions will act in the call as applicants. Eligible to become an applicant in the call are Host Institutions for which the funding will not constitute public aid.**

#### **Terms of the call:**

The applicant in the call is a Host Institution that applies for funding in cooperation with a Leader (the Leader will be assigned the role of principal investigator).

The Leader (principal investigator) should be a researcher with international track record and achievements in the field of artificial intelligence, including successful cooperation with business, who: has at least a doctoral degree (held for up to 8 years); has not lived, worked or studied in Poland two years before the closing of the call for proposals, and has not managed a grant implemented in Poland.

The AI Centres of Excellence will be embedded in the organisational structures of Host Institutions, which, as beneficiaries of the joint undertaking, will be responsible for creating conditions as required by the research teams and their Leaders for implementing their projects.

#### **Submitted in the call may be a proposal that meets all of the following conditions:**

1. the research and R&D work in the project deal with artificial intelligence,
2. the project has not been financed from the funds of the NCBR, NCN or other sources,
3. project duration is 60 months,
4. **the Leader will be employed on the basis of a full-time employment contract for the whole period of project implementation; annual remuneration of the Leader amounts up to PLN 600,000 gross, non-salary labour costs included,**
5. **the applicant (the unit of Jagiellonian University implementing the project) will declare:**
  - a. **own contribution in the amount of at least PLN 100,000 a year on average for each year of project implementation,**
  - b. **administrative and financial support for project implementation,** including support related to the Leader's arrival and stay in Poland (this may include e.g. childcare, if applicable) – service costs are not included in the applicant's own contribution,
  - c. **hiring a full-time administrative coordinator dedicated exclusively to the AI Centre of Excellence for the whole of project duration,** fluent in Polish and English – the costs of hiring the coordinator are not included in the applicant's own contribution.

#### **Terms of funding and responsibilities of the unit of Jagiellonian University implementing the project and the principal investigator (Leader):**

##### **General terms of funding:**

- Funds under the call will be allocated to finance three AI Centres of Excellence: up to PLN 20 million for each of them, including **up to PLN 1 million in support of establishing special purpose vehicles** from the NCBR budget.
- **the eligible costs of basic research funded by the NCN may not exceed PLN 5 million whereas the eligible costs of industrial research, development and/or preliminary work**

**funded by the NCBR may not exceed PLN 14 million** per project. The budget may also be supplemented with other services of the Host Institution purchased on its own.

- The funds can be used to finance:
  - remuneration for the Leader,
  - remuneration for the research team, including scholarships,
  - cost of purchase of research equipment, devices and software,
  - depreciation costs,
  - other costs directly related to the research.
- The level of co-funding the implementation **at research entities of works in the project is up to 100% of eligible costs**. Research entities may implement the project only as non-economic activity.
- The joint undertaking **does not provide for granting public aid and settlement of indirect costs**.

**Under the co-funding granted by the NCN** (basic research), the applying Host Institution – **(the unit of Jagiellonian University where the project will be carried out) undertakes to:**

1. **provide optimum conditions for the Leader (principal investigator) and other team members to carry out the project**, including the provision of laboratory and office space and the necessary infrastructure and research equipment for the establishment and proper functioning of the AI Centre of Excellence;
2. **hire a Leader, based on a full-time employment contract, throughout the duration of the AI CE project**, also in the case of project extension, and pay them a salary in the amount specified in the application;
3. **hire other members of the AI CE team on the basis of an employment contract, civil law contract, or by awarding them doctoral scholarship**, as agreed with the Leader. If a team member is employed on the basis of an employment contract at the Host Institution, they may only receive remuneration in a different form (e.g. contract bonus) than on the basis of a civil law contract;
4. **make own financial contribution in the amount of at least PLN 100,000 a year on average for each year of the AI CE project implementation**. If the first and final year of project implementation are not full calendar years, the amount for those years may be reduced as appropriate. Own contribution should be allocated for covering the costs of the Leader's relocation in accordance with the call's terms and conditions;
5. provide administrative and financial support, the costs of which shall be borne by the Host Institution from resources other than those referred to in point d, and support throughout the project implementation period. The support should also include assistance in relocating the Leader;
6. **hire, with the Host Institution's own funds other than those indicated in point 4, an administrative staff member** fluent in Polish and English, on the basis of a full-time employment contract, for the whole duration of the AI CE project, also in the case of extending the duration of the project, whose duties will include working exclusively for the AI CE;
7. **pay a contractual penalty** in the event that the contract is deemed not performed – with the return of the entire financial resources due to circumstances for which the Host Institution or the Leader are responsible, resulting from their gross breach of obligations under the contract. The NCN will have the right to charge the Host Institution with a contractual penalty equal to 5% of the amount of the funding awarded.

**Under the co-funding granted by the NCBR** (industrial research, development work or preliminary work and assistance to funding special purpose vehicles) the applicant Host Institution – **(the unit of Jagiellonian University where the project will be carried out) undertakes to:**

1. **hire a full-time administrative coordinator dedicated exclusively to the project for the whole of project duration**, fluent in Polish and English - this cost is not included in the Host Institution's own contribution;
2. **oblige the Leader not to run any competitive activity towards the Host Institution**, nor to provide work within the framework of the employment relationship or on any other basis to an entity running such an activity;

3. inform the NCBR of all modifications to the contract of employment between the Host Institution and the Leader within 14 days of introducing the modifications;
4. **ensuring that the promissory note of employment / preliminary contract between the Host Institution and the Leader includes provisions ensuring the proper implementation of the project and the performance of all duties** that are necessary for the proper implementation of the contract;
5. **making own contribution for the project implementation in the average amount of at least PLN 100,000 per year for each year of project implementation.**

**The Leader (principal investigator) undertakes in particular to:**

- in the period of cost eligibility and until the Centre approves the report on the application of the results, not to transfer to another entity the rights, obligations or debts of the Leader under the contract, without the consent of the NCBR and NCN expressed in writing or in electronic form (with a qualified electronic signature) on pain of nullity,
- **provide work at the Host Institution over 100 % of the project implementation time.**

**Responsibilities of the unit of Jagiellonian University implementing the project and of the principal investigator (Leader)**

regarding intellectual property rights and the application of project results:

the Host Institution and the Leader undertake to carry out the full material scope of the project. the Host Institution undertakes to implement the results of R&D works within two years from the end of Project implementation in accordance with the funding proposal. the Leader, should they become a subject of part of property rights to the project results, is obliged to cooperate with the Host Institution in the scope of fulfilling the obligation mentioned in the preceding sentence.

**Other important information on the call and submissions:**

- The Applicant may submit any number of proposals for different projects, i.e. covering different tasks and different objectives, led by different Leaders.
- A given person may be indicated as a Leader only in one proposal submitted in the call.
- The Host Institution undertakes to implement the results of R&D works within two years from the end of project implementation in accordance with the funding proposal. the Leader, should they become a subject of part of property rights to the project results, is obliged to cooperate with the Host Institution in the scope of fulfilling the obligation.
- The division of property rights to the results of R&D works and related access rights, being the result of the project, is determined between the Host Institution and the Leader, and is specified in the conditional cooperation agreement concluded between the Host Institution and the Leader.
- Relocation costs for the Leader (in case of necessity to move to the city where the AI Centre is located) are covered with the Host Institution's contribution. The lump sum in EUR depends on the Leader's place of residence and the number of family members accompanying them in Poland.

**Proposal submission:**

Proposals must be submitted in two language versions, Polish and English, using the LSI submissions system on the website: [lsi.ncbr.gov.pl](http://lsi.ncbr.gov.pl).

The system will be open until 20 December 2021, 4:00 p.m.

**JU internal regulations:**

1. Pursuant to the Ordinance no 56 of JU Rector 11 July 2016 on: the procedure for drawing up and implementing projects funded from external sources at Jagiellonian University, please deliver to the CAWP:
  - **by 10 December 2021:**
    - **a proposal draft** (electronic version sent as a pdf file to the address of the call assistant at the CAWP) for the purposes of review and verification of formal and accountancy eligibility;

- a **research project entry form** and a **VAT eligibility form**, filled out in the electronic system **JU Project Zone** at: <https://strefaprojektow.uj.edu.pl/>.
- **by 15 December 2021, 12:00: the final version of the proposal** (an electronic version sent as a PDF file: a document signed with a qualified electronic signature or in the form of a scan with signatures). Required signatures: principal investigator and JU organisational entity head (dean or director / head of other organisational entity).

With queries and doubts regarding preparing the proposal you are welcome to contact the call assistant at the CAWP, Ms Natalia Łakomy, phone 12 663 38 27, [natalia.lakomy@uj.edu.pl](mailto:natalia.lakomy@uj.edu.pl)

In matters regarding employment and remuneration in the prepared projects, please contact Ms Aleksandra Weiss, phone no 12 663 38 73, [aleksandra.weiss@uj.edu.pl](mailto:aleksandra.weiss@uj.edu.pl).

In the case of queries concerning the application of project results, please contact CTT Brokers of CITTRU (from your respective Faculty).

Signed by /  
Podpisano przez:



Piotr Kazimierz  
Kuśtrowski

Date / Data:  
28/10/2021 13:30