

ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORT

FM14-21

Poland

PL-Applied Research Applied Research

2022

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2022 the Programme Operator (PO) completed the process of signing project contracts. All selected projects (81) were under implementation and reported results. The number of researchers supported, joint applications for further funding as well as indicator for mentor-mentee relationships supporting young researchers increased further in the reporting period and considerably exceeded the target values.

Comparing to the previous reporting period, the PO recorded also a significant increase in the number of new products/technologies developed, registered applications for IPR, submitted peer-reviewed scientific publications as well as female researchers going abroad for research. These indicators still did not reach the target values however they are expected to increase in the next reporting period as the implementation of projects reaches the final phase.

Being aware of the exceptional price growth and the unprecedented current economic situation, in autumn 2022 the PO carried out a survey among beneficiaries asking about general situation of the projects, limitations and challenges as well as needs. Having in mind the answers received, the PO started working on the mechanism enabling to increase funding for already approved POLNOR, POLNOR CCS and IdeaLab projects. The PO expects to introduce this mechanism in the next reporting period.

Based on the positive experience from previous monitoring visits, in 2022 the PO continued such online meetings with selected projects. Moreover, in June 2022 the PO organised online monitoring meetings for each IdeaLab project. International experts who participated in the IdeaLab process from the very beginning gave their opinions on projects' implementation and further recommendations. Apart from it, two Programme Committee meetings were organised dedicated to monitoring of PL-Applied Research Programme and projects implementation as well as visiting projects' sites. In addition, in the reporting period the PO carried out all financial and scientific controls as planned.

In the reporting period the PO posted project stories on the PO's Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn profile. In May 2022 the PO organized online workshop on administrative and financial issues for SGS Project Promoters with video reports and presentations available on the Programme webpage.

In the reporting period the implementation of the Programme took place in close cooperation with the Donor Programme Partner (DPP) – the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and under supervision of the National Focal Point (NFP). This cooperation is crucial in terms of the identified risks mitigation. There was also close collaboration between the PO and the Programme Operator of the Basic Research Programme in Poland both on working day-to-day basis and during international workshops for the POs, Programmes' meetings and events.

B. PERFORMANCE

1. Programme progress and results

Objectives

The PO aimed at achieving the Objective “Enhanced research-based knowledge development” and Outcome 1: "Enhanced performance of Polish applied research" through funding projects selected in competitive calls for proposals: POLNOR 2019 Call, POLNOR CCS Call, the IdeaLab Call for Full Proposals and Small Grant Scheme 2020 Call.

The programme Applied Research is contributing to the objectives of the grants by strengthening bilateral cooperation between Polish and Norwegian science. Calls POLNOR 2019, POLNOR CCS and the IdeaLab Call for Full Proposals are implemented by 50 consortia including Polish and Norwegian entities. The project teams prepare project results together (e.g. joint applications for further funding, joint peer-review publications, new products and technologies). The implementation of the projects contribute to reducing social and economic disparities between Polish science and European Science, through support to Polish researchers, including young female researchers (also described in the latter part of this report). The added value of the programme is including non-governmental organisations in research projects funded in the IdeaLab call.

Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Polish applied research

At the end of the reporting period, cumulatively 81 project contracts were signed in the Programme, incl. 4 project contracts for additional SGS projects from the reserve list (due to the shifting of part of the management costs to project financing in 2021). All projects were under implementation, including 13 SGS projects that started in 2022.

The exceptional price increases and the unprecedented current economic situation cause specific challenges that have also affected projects implemented under the Programme. In September-October 2022 the PO carried out a survey among beneficiaries asking about general situation of the projects, limitations and challenges as well as needs. The PO received feedback from 80 % of bilateral projects, that identified some common challenges: lockdowns – affecting field research, meetings, conferences, surveys, obtaining permissions etc., inflation (increase in prices of energy, materials, travels, salaries), war in Ukraine, recruitment of personnel, exchange rate fluctuations, prolonged purchase procedures, delays in deliveries and subcontracting, availability of materials, components etc. as well as late decision on additional allocation for IdeaLab projects.

At the same time significant depreciation of the zloty against the euro over the last years generated exchange rate surplus in the Programme. With this in mind in 2022 the PO started working on the mechanism enabling to increase funding for already approved POLNOR, POLNOR CCS and IdeaLab projects. The PO expects to introduce this mechanism in the next reporting period.

In the reporting period the projects contributed to the achievements of outputs listed under "Outcome 1".

Cumulatively, at the end of 2022 there were 246 peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted (78% of the target value), including 57 publications prepared together by Polish and Norwegian researchers.

The interesting example is project PL-Applied Research-0003 (NOR/POLNOR/EnerGizerS/0036/2019) that submitted 7 peer-reviewed publications (of which 4 Gold open access), including 5 joint publications prepared by Polish and Norwegian researchers (of which 2 Gold open access). In the previous reporting period the project had 2 joint peer-reviewed publications. This is a good example of progress towards the achievement of the project results in 2022 and high percentage (over 70%) of joint application among all publications in the project.

Positive example is also project PL-Applied Research-0015 (NOR/POLNOR/MoReSiC/0003/2019), that had had no joint publications in the previous reporting period and in 2022 the project team had submitted 3 joint publications.

Till the end of 2022, 32 new products/technologies were developed in the projects and 8 applications for Intellectual Property Protection were registered. The PO foresees that most of publications, development of products/technologies and application for IPR will be recorded at the end of the projects implementation when projects obtain research results.

As predicted the indicators for **output 1.2 (“Support to researchers conducting applied research provided”)** increased in 2022 both for researchers from the donor states and from Poland. The reason for this is the higher number of projects obliged to report indicators, as well as the fact that many projects were reaching their mid project lifetime. The highest number of 14 researchers from the donor state supported within the project was reported in the IdeaLab project PL-Applied Research-0077 (NOR/IdeaLab/USAGE/0004/2020-00).

“Number of female researchers supported in applied research projects” (output 1.3) also rose with the highest number of 18 female researchers supported so far is the PL-Applied Research-0012 project (NOR/POLNOR/WasteValue/0002/2019-01). For the indicator **“Number of female researchers going abroad for research”**, there was a significant increase of female researchers who went abroad in the projects from 8 in 2021 to 39 as of the end of 2022 (73.6% of target value achieved). The increase was possible thanks to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. However, post-pandemic changes can still affect this indicator where remote work or online meetings are more common than before. Nevertheless, it is highly probable that in 2023 the target value will be reached. An IdeaLab project PL-Applied Research-0075 (NOR/IdeaLab/Co-Adapt/0002/2020-00) brought the highest number of 13 female researchers going abroad for research.

For the indicator **“Number of mentor-mentee relationships established for young researchers”**, there was an increase in achieved value from 134 to 175. The highest number of 18 cases was reported in the project PL-Applied Research-0022 (NOR/POLNORCCS/NEGATIVE-CO2-PP/0009/2019-03) probably thanks to the size of the project.

Output 1.5 (“Support to carbon capture and storage research (CCS)”) is connected directly with the indicators reported by projects funded under the dedicated POLNOR CCS Call. Number of researchers supported both from the donor states and from Poland rose, however in case of Polish researchers the change was more visible. In 2022, the highest value of 9 donor states’ researchers was reported in the PL-Applied Research-0039 project (NOR/POLNORCCS/MOLCAR/0017/2020-03). An exceptionally high number of 39 Polish

researchers was reported in the PL-Applied Research-0022 project (NOR/POLNORCCS/NEGATIVE-CO2-PP/0009/2019-03) which is the biggest CCS project both in terms of granted funding as well as the number of partners. Thus, the project is impressive, but at the same time, it is more complex and demanding.

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

Until the end of the reporting period, cumulatively 50 projects involving the cooperation of a donor project partner (Norway) signed grant agreements and consortium agreements, including 38 projects in POLNOR 2019 Call and 6 projects in POLNOR CCS Call, and 6 projects in the IdeaLab Call for Full Proposals (Bilateral Output 1: "Cooperation between the beneficiaries and donor state entities supported"). The target value of the indicator (53) will not be achieved: using the allocation and the allocated reserve, based on the opinion of external experts and the decision of the Programme Committee, 50 projects with the participation of partners from donor countries were selected for funding.

In 2021 the indicator 'Number of joint applications for further funding' was already exceeded, and in 2022 the progress was still visible and significant. In 2022, the number of consortia that have already submitted applications for further funding together with Norwegian partner(s) was doubled. 16 consortia from 50 projects submitted a total number of 30 joint applications for further funding (14 joint applications of EU source, 11 of national source, and 5 of international source). Indeed, next year it is highly probable to continue growth. More and more initiatives launched or planned to be launched in 2023 under Horizon Europe may additionally affect and reinforce the positive results of the total number already achieved. In particular, one project NEGATIVE-CO2-PP (PL-Applied Research-0022 NOR/POLNORCCS/NEGATIVE-CO2-PP/0009/2019-03) is noteworthy, where 7 joint applications were already submitted (4 of EU source and 3 of national source).

Although, during the monitoring meetings beneficiaries expressed a lot of positive opinions on cooperation with Norwegian partners, the most of the activities remain online. Since the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted the PO is encouraging the projects to schedule the exchange site visits, which might contribute to the intensification of bilateral relations in the projects and result in joint future initiatives.

As regards the cooperation between the PO and the DPP, representatives of both entities remain in touch on a daily basis, e.g. during working and formal regular online meetings.

Representatives from the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) and DPP visited the PO in Warsaw on 27 April 2022. The meeting was dedicated to presentations and discussions on Programme progress, financial issues, information and promotion activities in the Programme. Moreover, two selected projects GreenCoin - IdeaLab (PL-Applied Research-0046, NOR/IdeaLab/GC/0003/2020-00) and PhotoRed – POLNOR CCS (PL-Applied Research-0016, NOR/POLNORCCS/PhotoRed/0007/2019-00) were presented and discussed.

The representatives of the PO participated in the POs' workshop organised by the DPP on 4 May 2022 dedicated to financial issues, planning cross-country thematic

conferences/workshops, communication of results, motivation and support of projects to apply for further funding as well as reporting from projects. During the POs' workshop the initiative of bilateral fund *Scheme: Support for Ukrainian Researchers* was presented.

In the reporting period, the PO organised in Warsaw and Oslo two face-to-face meetings of the Programme Committee (PC) consisting of Polish and Norwegian experts.

C. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Monitorings carried out

Based on the monitoring plan, the PO organised the online monitoring meetings with selected projects from POLNOR, POLNOR CCS, and IdeaLab Call for Full Proposals. The year 2022 saw 5 online monitoring visits which were included in the monitoring plan. In addition, 1 *ad hoc* online monitoring meeting with POLNOR project was organized in line with the recommendation by the expert who reviewed the annual project report. Conclusions of all online monitoring meetings were noted in writing and feedback was communicated to Project Promoters. Apart from project specific recommendations the common feedback to the beneficiaries given by the PO included: conducting information and promotional activities e.g. uploading materials to Media Library and making best effort towards meeting planned indicators and results. The PO reminded the beneficiaries about the final date of costs eligibility as well as rules of introducing changes in projects. The meetings were very fruitful and productive, and benefited both sides.

In response to inherent risk of IdeaLab projects, in June 2022 the PO organised six online monitoring meetings dedicated to these projects. The aim of the meetings was to help in solving problems in the project implementation, answer to the experts' remarks on the annual project reports and find recommendations for the further project implementation. The participants were: Principal Investigators, representatives of Project Partners and international experts involved in the IdeaLab process, the PO. Within seven days from the meeting experts prepared written recommendations for each project.

During the PC meetings PC members, observers and the PO had a chance to visit some Polish Project Promoters and Norwegian project partners. Based on research progress and overall performance the following projects were selected to be visited:

PL-Applied Research-0044 (NOR/IdeaLab/CoMobility/0001/2020-00)

PL-Applied Research-0051 (NOR/SGS/BANANO/0164/2020)

PL-Applied Research-0019 (NOR/POLNOR/REFSA/0059/2019-00)

PL-Applied Research-0039 (NOR/POLNORCCS/MOLCAR/0017/2020-03)

PL-Applied Research-0077 (NOR/Idealab/USAGE/0004/2020-00)

PL-Applied Research-0021 (NOR/POLNOR/ALTERCAR/0056/2019-00).

The PC members shared their opinions with the Project Promoters and project partners about the scientific and technical aspects of projects' implementation, IPRs issues and cooperation between partners.

Moreover, in total 8 POLNOR, POLNOR CCS, IdeaLab and SGS projects were indicated for financial and scientific control in the monitoring plan for 2022. All controls envisaged in this plan took place in 2022. As of 31 December 2022, in case of financial controls: in 2 projects some irregularities were reported and in remaining projects there were either no irregularities or the preparation of findings was in progress. As for scientific controls: no remarks were given for 2 projects, in case of 1 project a recommendation to monitor closely procurements was given due to the prolonged periods of deliveries, and the preparation of findings was in progress in remaining controls.

During the reporting period the assessment of periodic reports for 2021 were processed: 68 financial reports (all projects that started before 2022) and 48 technical reports (all POLNOR and POLNOR CCS projects, 3 out of 6 IdeaLab projects and 1 out of 31 SGS projects were obliged to submit technical reports for 2021). The scientific reports were reviewed by external experts and the financial reports were assessed internally by the PO financial officers.

2. Evaluations carried out

In the reporting period the PO started mid-term evaluation of the Programme. The results will be available in the next reporting period.

D. ANNEXES

- 1. Results achieved**
- 2. Communication summary**
- 3. Project summary and call details**
- 4. Risk management**
- 5. Monitoring plan**
- 6. Evaluation report**
- 7. Agreement conditions**

Annex 1: Results achieved

Objective: Enhanced research-based knowledge development								
Outcome 1: Enhanced performance of Polish applied research								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of new products/technologies developed	Cumulative number	0	27 (APR 2021)	-	-	32	53	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	27	-	-	32	-	-
Number of registered applications for Intellectual Property Protection	Cumulative number	0	4 (APR 2021)	-	-	8	53	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	4	-	-	8	-	-
Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications submitted	Cumulative number	0	93 (APR 2021)	-	-	246	315	Not specified means other than open access.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	3	-	-	17	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	90	-	-	229	-	-
<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								
<i>Gold open access</i>	-	-	39	-	-	77	-	-
<i>Pending open access</i>	-	-	5	-	-	9	-	-
<i>Other</i>	-	-	19	-	-	61	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	30	-	-	99	-	-
Number of joint, peer-reviewed scientific publications in applied research submitted	Cumulative number	0	13 (APR 2021)	-	-	57	105	Not specified means other than open access.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	3	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	13	-	-	54	-	-

<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	13	-	-	57	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								
<i>Gold open access</i>	-	-	2	-	-	15	-	-
<i>Pending open access</i>	-	-	4	-	-	5	-	-
<i>Other</i>	-	-	3	-	-	12	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	4	-	-	25	-	-
Number of signed collaborative agreements between research organisations and companies involved in the programme	Cumulative number	0	40 (IFR 2022)	-	-	40	45	-
Output 1.1: Support to technology transfer for applied research to R&D based SMEs provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of SMEs supported	Cumulative number	0	37 (IFR 2022)	-	-	37	50	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	37	-	-	37	-	-
Output 1.2: Support to researchers conducting applied research provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of donor states' researchers supported	Cumulative number	0	193 (IFR 2022)	-	-	213	105	POLNOR and IdeaLab Calls. Not specified greater than 0 - data given by the PP (concern Norwegian partner)

<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	20	-	-	22	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	173	-	-	191	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	92	-	-	102	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	101	-	-	110	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	1	-	-
Number of Polish researchers supported	Cumulative number	0	806 (IFR 2022)	-	-	822	420	Based on information from Project Promoters from POLNOR, IdeaLab and SGS Calls. Achievements for female researchers until end December 2022 are lower than achievements until end of previous reporting period because of the typing errors which occurred during reporting to the PO in previous reporting period.
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	66	-	-	78	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	740	-	-	744	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	379	-	-	375	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	427	-	-	447	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Output 1.3: Support to women researchers provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of female researchers going abroad for research	Cumulative number	0	8 (APR 2021)	-	-	39	53	-

Number of female researchers supported in applied research projects	Cumulative number	0	337 (APR 2021)	-	-	363	263	The correct disaggregation between EEA and Norway Grants is 44 and 319 respectively
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	18	-	-	44	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	319	-	-	319	-	-
Output 1.4: Support to young researchers provided								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of grant projects lead by young researchers	Cumulative number	0	30 (APR 2021)	-	-	30	6	-
Number of mentor-mentee relationships established for young researchers	Cumulative number	0	134 (APR 2021)	-	-	175	53	-
Output 1.5: Support to carbon capture and storage research (CCS)								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of donor states' researchers supported for CCS Projects	Cumulative number	0	35 (IFR 2022)	-	-	38	15	-
<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	35	-	-	38	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	6	-	-	6	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	29	-	-	32	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of Polish researchers supported for CCS Projects	Cumulative number	0	105 (IFR 2022)	-	-	123	55	-

<i>Financial Mechanism</i>								
<i>EEA Grants</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Norway Grants</i>	-	-	105	-	-	123	-	-
<i>Gender</i>								
<i>Female</i>	-	-	30	-	-	33	-	-
<i>Male</i>	-	-	75	-	-	90	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
Number of CCS projects with support for a pre-commercial phase	Cumulative number	0	1 (APR 2021)	-	-	1	2	-
Bilateral Outcome: Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the programme								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Level of trust between cooperating entities in Poland and donors states	Scale 1-7	6.70	-	-	-	-	4.5, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	-
Level of satisfaction with the partnerships	Scale 1-7	6.54	-	-	-	-	4.5, Target is ≥4.5, and an increase on the baseline value	-
Share of cooperating organisations who apply the knowledge acquired from bilateral partnership	Percentage	N/A	-	-	-	-	50, Target is minimum 50 %	-

Number of joint applications for further funding	Cumulative number	0	11 (APR 2021)	-	-	30	6	"Type of scientific publication" does not concern "joint applications for further funding" indicator.
<i>Donor State</i>								
<i>Norway</i>	-	-	11	-	-	30	-	-
<i>Iceland</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Type of scientific publication</i>								
<i>Gold open access</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Pending open access</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Other</i>	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
<i>Not specified</i>	-	-	11	-	-	30	-	-
Bilateral Output 1: Cooperation between beneficiary and donor state entities supported								
Indicator	Unit of measurement	Baseline value	Previous achievement value	Achievements until end of December 2022			Target value	Comment
				Numerator	Denominator	Achievement value		
Number of projects involving the cooperation of a donor project partner	Cumulative number	0	50 (IFR 2022)	-	-	50	53	-

Annex 2: Communication summary

1. Best projects

1.

NOR/POLNOR/WOOLUME/0007/2019-00

PL-Applied Research-0037

The WOOLUME project concerns wool from mountain sheep grazed in the Silesian Beskids. The aim of the project is to develop solutions enabling the rational use of wool, which is currently considered a troublesome and low-value by-product of sheep breeding. In cooperation with Norwegian partners a technology for the production of woollen products intended for interior furnishings with good insulating properties will be developed. In addition, the technology for production of organic fertilizer will be elaborated and research on various environmental aspects of sheep grazing and market research on wool insulation materials will be performed.

2.

NOR/Idealab/USAGE/0004/2020-00

PL-Applied Research-0077

The objective of the project is to create the green-garden installation for the food production which is based on aquaponic systems supported on rain and stormwater collection infrastructure. Alongside to food production, the infrastructure will play an educational and social role, integrating the citizens, creating the workplaces and propagating the environment-friendly behaviours. The design of the system will be suited to the urban tissue thanks to local community engagement and urban planners work. The aquaponic installation connected with the water collection and treatment system will create a meeting place and play a social role by integrating neighbourhoods, local citizens, boosting entrepreneurship and rising the knowledge about climate changes. Big part of infrastructure will be located and financed under the project in urban site (Wroclaw) and research on it will be performed there. In this “co-creation” process subject infrastructure is developed in front of the local community and with their engagement. Researchers in this setting can be seen as “invited experts” that intervene within stormwater aquaponic installation but are doing this “on behalf” of

society. Aquaponic farm in modern, dense cities may help accomplish the search for amorphous forms, offering expected variety and contrast in highly urbanized context. Even more important advantage that aquaponic farm offers to urban community is its potential of social interactions.

2. Visibility of the Grants and the Donors

2.a. Communication activities

The PO organized the online workshop for Project Promoters from the Small Grant Scheme Call on 17 May 2022. During the workshop the PO provided information on financial aspects, reporting, possible changes as well as information and promotion in projects. The workshop were attended by 52 participants. Video reports and presentations of the online workshop for Project Promoters are available on the Programme webpage.

The most important information for scientific community and general public was posted on the NCBR's Facebook (13 posts), Twitter (13 posts) and LinkedIn profile (13 posts).

The PO regularly publishes 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 frequently published information concerns the implementation of projects (project database, implementation guide, annual reporting, possible changes, media library, update of information and promotion in projects, payment application form and guidelines on public procurement).

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.

2.b. Project stories

Project stories were published on the NCBR's Facebook (12 posts), Twitter (12 posts) and LinkedIn profile (12 posts).

Additionally, 1 article was published on the main website of the NCBR: <https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/od-zimnej-plazmy-po-lasery-sila-kobiet-w-naukach-technicznych>

3. Media coverage

<https://polskiprzemysl.com.pl/technologie/kobiety-w-nowych-technologiach/>

In 2022, three PIs (Lucyna Bilińska - NOR/SGS/TEX-WATER-REC/0026/2020-00, Agnieszka Ławrynowicz - NOR/SGS/TAISTI/0323/2020 and Dominika Sobotka - NOR/SGS/INPORR/0074/2020-00) from projects implemented under the Small Grant Scheme Call were awarded the Scientist of the Future award:

<https://naukowiecprzyszlosci.pl/laureaci/>

<https://p.lodz.pl/uczelnia/aktualnosci/laureatka-nagrody-naukowiec-przyszlosci-2022>

<https://www2.cs.put.poznan.pl/2022/06/20/nagroda-naukowiec-przyszlosci-dla-prof-agnieszki-lawrynowicz/>

4. Website and social media

Link to programme website		Total number of page views in the reporting year	
https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr/iii-edycj...		1252	
	Link or account handle	Number of posts published in the reporting year	Number of followers
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/NCBiR/	13	30463
Twitter	https://twitter.com/NCBR_pl	13	11974
LinkedIn	https://www.linkedin.com/company/ncbr	13	32160

5. Visuals

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/18094/Toxicological%20tests:%20project%20i-CLARE?returnTo=%2F%3FProgrammes%3DResearch%26page%3D2&breadcrumbType=menu>

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/18093/Toxicological%20tests:%20project%20i-CLARE?returnTo=%2F%3FProgrammes%3DResearch%26page%3D2&breadcrumbType=menu>

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/18084/RVC%20electrode:%20project%20i-CLARE?returnTo=%2F%3FProgrammes%3DResearch%26page%3D2&breadcrumbType=menu>

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/18502/Photored-Laboratories?returnTo=%2F%3FProgrammes%3DResearch%26page%3D1&breadcrumbType=menu>

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/18500/Photored-Laboratories?returnTo=%2F%3FProgrammes%3DResearch%26page%3D1&breadcrumbType=menu>

<https://www.eealibrary.org/asset/18494/Photored-Laboratories?returnTo=%2F%3FProgrammes%3DResearch%26page%3D2&breadcrumbType=menu>

Annex 3: Overview of contracted projects

1. Project summary

	Number	Total Grant	Amount budgeted to dpps (estimate)
Total number of projects contracted	81	€ 77,607,374	€ 25,818,526
Number of pre-defined projects contracted	0	€ 0	€ 0
Number of projects with a donor project partner	50	€ 71,872,149	€ 25,818,526
Number of projects with a donor project partner Norway	50	€ 71,872,149	€ 25,818,526
Number of projects with a donor project partner Iceland	0	€ 0	€ 0
Number of projects with a donor project partner Liechtenstein	0	€ 0	€ 0

2. Call details

Call title	Outcome(s)	Call amount	Submission deadline	Number of applications received	Grant amount applied for	Grant demand %	Number of applications approved for funding	Grant amount awarded	Number of projects contracted	Amount contracted
Call for collaborative research projects in carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the Polish applied research programme 'POLNOR CCS'	Outcome 1	€ 11,764,706	12/12/2019	17	€ 35,740,143	303.79 %	6	€ 11,764,706	6	€ 11,764,706
Cities for the future: services and solutions	Outcome 1	€ 9,064,734	08/06/2020	6	€ 11,121,428	122.69 %	6	€ 9,064,734	6	€ 10,396,505
PL-Research: Call for collaborative research projects in the Polish applied research programme ('POLNOR')	Outcome 1	€ 49,745,454	12/12/2019	74	€ 96,087,632	193.16 %	38	€ 49,745,454	38	€ 49,710,938
Small Grant Scheme 2020	Outcome 1	€ 5,737,307	11/12/2020	337	€ 55,657,496	970.10 %	31	€ 5,735,225	31	€ 5,735,225

Annex 4: Risk management

Risk description	Likelihood (1-4)	Consequence (1-4)	Risk score	Planned response in 2023
underspending of funds allocated to the projects	3 medium high	2 medium low	2.45	Ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, requesting for regular teleconferences to verify and unify all problematic issues 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	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	Ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, requesting for regular teleconferences to verify and unify all problematic issues 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	2 medium low	3 medium high	2.45	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 to prevent 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	2 medium low	2 medium low	2.00	Ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland, regular teleconferences to verify and unify all problematic issues 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	3 medium high	1 low	1.73	Monitoring of funded projects on the basis of periodic reports, payment requests, monitoring meetings etc.
the IdeaLab projects not finished before 30 April 2024	3 medium high	3 medium high	3.00	Monitoring of the projects by the PO, annual monitoring meetings with external experts, ongoing consultations with RCN, FMO and NFP in Poland.
failure to achieve goals and results of the projects	3 medium high	4 high	3.46	Meetings with PPs regarding projects' needs, challenges, irregularities, delays. Contacts with DPP to solve misunderstandings. Ongoing supervision, e.g. assessment of annual reports (monitoring the status of goals/results). Amendments to project contracts (extension of project duration; reallocation of costs; modification of research tasks approved by external experts), additional funds in response to unforeseen increase in prices.
Overall risk of not absorbing most financing and achieving most targets (1-4):			2.00	

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

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

Annex 7: Agreement conditions

Description	Type	Tracking	Fulfilled	Date of fulfilment	Description of measures taken
<p>1. 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).</p>	General	Continuously tracking	No		<p>There were no new templates of documents prepared in the reporting period that would necessitate involvement of the Donor Programme Partners. All documents used were based on templates prepared previously. The PO introduced an amendment to the template of a project contract that allowed beneficiaries to make slight changes in costs/justifications by informing the PO and consulted this modification of a project contract with the DPP.</p> <p>In the course of a implementation phase of POLNOR, POLNOR CCS and IdeaLab calls the PO and DPP acted together and supported each other when answering questions from donor project partners.</p> <p>The PO consulted the DPP with respect to the Terms of Reference for the mid-term Programme evaluation.</p>
<p>2. 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.</p>	General	Continuously tracking	No		<p>The PO worked in close cooperation with the PO of the 'Basic Research' Programme - National Science Centre (NCN) in Cracow. Both POs exchanged their experiences, for example in case of discussing measures mitigating the impact of unforeseen increase in prices.</p>

					<p>The PO invited the PO of the 'Basic Research' Programme to attend all meetings of the 'Applied Research' Programme Committee.</p> <p>During the EARMA Conference (4-6 May 2022, Oslo) the PO participated in one of the '15 Minute discussion tables' <i>Open Access Pilots - changing funders' OA policies and practice in Widening countries</i> hosted by representatives of RCN, FMO and POs from the Polish 'Basic Research' Programme and the Czech Research Programme.</p> <p>The PO participated in the promoting event for the Polish Programme 'Basic Research' (6-7 October 2022), where the research projects in two sections: polar research and climate research were presented as well as study visits took place.</p> <p>Representative of both POs participated in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the PO meeting as well as financial workshop for POs on 4 May 2022 in Oslo - the Results & Evaluation Network workshop for Programme Operators on 2-3 June 2022 in Tallin <p>thus exchanging knowledge and experience between themselves and other POs.</p>
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					<p>Programme Operators of two Research Programmes in Poland participate together on regular basis in formal working meetings with RCN and discuss the current issues. The cooperation made it possible to enhance the profitability of the relations.</p>
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