



Announcement

3rd Polish-German Call for Proposals for Joint Research and Development Projects

Project applications and national funding applications will be accepted until 30 April 2026

1. Scope

The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE) intend to support joint Polish-German research and development projects (R&D projects) in order to develop innovative products, processes or technical services from all technology and application areas. Funding will be available for R&D projects in which new products, technical services or processes will in subsequent steps generate sustainable solutions with high market potential.

In Poland, funding is provided through the INNOGLOBO programme. In Germany, funding is provided through the Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM).

NCBR, INNOGLOBO programme management agency and AiF Project GmbH, ZIM project management agency on behalf of the BMWE, support the applicants in the phase of submission of project proposals, in the evaluation and in the implementation phase.

NCBR and AiF Project GmbH will evaluate the submitted proposals according to the national regulations and communicate the **results not later than 30 October 2026**.

2. Call structure

The call invites partners to submit joint proposals for R&D projects until 30 April 2026 according to the procedures applied by NCBR and ZIM, specified in *Rules for the participation of Polish applicants in the 5th call of the INNOGLOBO programme* (Poland) and the *ZIM Guidelines* (Germany).

2.1 Financing

Eligible project participants from Poland and Germany will finance their costs from the funding schemes applicable for this call set by NCBR INNOGLOBO programme and the German funding programme ZIM and complementarily from their own resources. Provision of funding from one funding agency will neither indicate that funding from the other funding agency will be provided, nor bind the other national scheme in its provision of funds to the eligible project participants.

2.2 Minimum Requirements

Project results will have to contribute to the development of commercial products, processes and/or technology-based services, which are based on the international state of the art. The project proposals have to comply with the following guidelines:

- The partners must include at least one Polish company or research organization and one German SME.
- Participation of further research organizations and other companies are welcome as additional partners or subcontractors according to each country's funding schemes.
- Companies and/or research organizations from other countries may also participate. These partners' participation is neither funded by NCBR nor ZIM. They have to be included into the Proposal Application Form.
- The project should focus on the development of new products, technical services or processes, which are based on the international state of the art, leading to commercialization in the domestic and/or global markets.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and differentiated value proposition resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two countries.
- Project duration should range from 24 to 36 months.
- The project should demonstrate a balanced technological contribution by the participants from both countries and must be equally significant to all participants.
- In a project with two cooperating partners, no partner may contribute more than 70% of total person months to the project.
- In a project with more than two cooperating partners, no partner may contribute more than 50% of total person months.
- All research organizations involved in the consortium may altogether not contribute more than 50% of the total person months.
- According to the *Rules for the participation of Polish applicants in the 5th call of the INNOGLOBO programme* the project should demonstrate a financial balanced contribution by all the participants:
 - The share of financial resources from all the German and other foreign partners forming the international consortium which implements an international project submitted to the 5th INNOGLOBO call should be a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 70% of the total international consortium budget allocated to the project.
 - The share of the Polish applicant's financial resources (in case of a national consortium, the total share of all the Polish consortium members) in the international project submitted to the 5th INNOGLOBO call should be a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 70% of the international consortium's total budget allocated for the implementation of the project.

- In this context, please be aware, that the minimum amount of co-financing in Poland is 300,000 PLN and maximum amount is 2 Mio. PLN. In the German ZIM, each company can apply for a grant of up to €336,000 (in accordance with the guidelines: depending on the size of the company, among other factors).
- Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria may apply to the present announcement in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

3. Submission

Between the opening of the call on 1 December 2025 and the call deadline on 30 April 2026 all participants are expected to file one short common proposal in English language (Proposal Application Form), signed by all organisations participating in the project. This document has to be submitted electronically only to zim-international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de (by German applicants).

The proposal form is available under: www.zim.de/polen

In addition to the common proposal, project partners who want to apply for funding within this call must submit a national application according to the respective rules (see below) until the call deadline.

Regarding the consortium agreement, please respect the national regulations.

3.1. Poland

Polish applicants submit international application for project financing according to the *Rules for the participation of Polish applicants in the 5th call of the INNOGLOBO programme*.

The international application should be submitted to the NCBR via the electronic system – Application Generator in LSI 1.0.

3.2. Germany

Each German project partner submits an individual ZIM application to the ZIM Project Management Agency AiF Projekt GmbH. Every SME with an establishment or branch in Germany, in accordance with the relevant EU regulations, as well as medium-sized companies with less than 500 employees (full-time equivalents), which carry out R&D for the development of innovative products, processes or technical services, are eligible to apply. Other medium-sized companies with less than 1,000 employees are eligible to apply for funding if they cooperate with at least one SME (in accordance with EU regulations) whose project is funded. Research and technology organizations are eligible to apply as cooperation partners of eligible companies.

An instruction and detailed criteria for submitting applications can be found on the ZIM website (www.zim.de); you may also contact AiF Projekt GmbH directly as described below. The application must be written in German and comply with the regulations of the ZIM guideline.

It should also be noted that individual aspects of the ZIM guideline may differ from the conditions in Poland.

3.3. Decision and project start

It is expected that applicants will receive the decision regarding their grant by their national funding organizations not later than 30 October 2026.

Consultation with the national funding organizations is highly recommended at an early stage.

Contact



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Questions on ZIM funding
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Poland
Questions on INNOGLOBO

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