

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

of the Call for Proposals on Research Projects
of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine
“Individual Research Projects 2027–2028”
(hereinafter – the Terms)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

1.1. Title of the Call for Proposals: “Individual Research Projects 2027–2028”
(hereinafter – the Call).

1.2. The purpose of the Call is to select projects for a collective grant support for current individual research and developments by Ukrainian researchers.

The competitive selection is carried out in accordance with the Procedure for Competitive Selection and Financing of Research and Developments Projects by the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 27 December 2019, No. 1170.

1.3. Thematic areas of the Call cover a wide range of fundamental and applied issues across all fields of science, related to addressing the most pressing research challenges aimed at the technological, economic, social, and cultural advancement of Ukraine.

The thematic area of the research and developments projects (hereinafter – the Projects) submitted for the Call shall correspond to at least one of the branches of science and technology development (in accordance with Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On Priority Branches of Science and Technology Development’ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2623-14#Text>):

1. national security and defense;
2. fundamental research on the most urgent issues in the development of scientific and technical, social and economic, social and political, human potential to ensure Ukraine's competitiveness in the world and sustainable development of society and the state;
3. information and communication technologies;
4. power and energy efficiency;
5. rational use of natural resources;
6. life sciences, new technology for the prevention and treatment of the most common diseases;
7. new substances and materials.

Projects that contain information classified as a state secret (in accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On State Secrets”) **shall not be accepted for consideration under the Call.**

The absence of information constituting a state-secret in the application for grant support (hereinafter – the Application) and in the documents submitted together with it **shall** be specified in a guarantee letter from the institution of higher education / research institution that has undertaken to ensure that the research (developments) envisaged by the Project (hereinafter – the Legal Entity) is implemented by the PI on the basis of this Legal Entity, and to approve / endorse its research results.

The head of the Legal Entity shall bear full responsibility for the presence of any state-secret information in the Application materials and in the documents submitted together with it.

1.4. Duration (in years) of the projects to be selected based on the results of the Call.

The projects are expected to be implemented in 2027-2028 **in two (2) intermediate stages** of Project implementation (provided that the corresponding budget allocations of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (hereinafter – the Foundation, NRFU, or the Grantor) are available for the respective year):

- the first stage of Project implementation (tentatively 9 months, March-November 2027);
- the second stage (tentatively 9 months, March-November 2028);

Planning the duration of the intermediate stages of Project implementation shall be carried out taking into account the established timeframes for processing the reporting documentation submitted by the Legal Entity and the PI - the Call winner (hereinafter – the Grantee) to confirm the completion of each stage of Project implementation (no less than 14 calendar days from the date of completion of the respective intermediate stage of Project implementation).

By decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation, the duration of the intermediate stages of Project implementation planned in the Application may be adjusted at the time of concluding the grant agreement (hereinafter – the Agreement), including taking into account and in accordance with the Foundation's budget revenues for the respective year.

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS FOR THE CALL, PI, AUTHORS AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTERS*

*The requirements are formulated in accordance with the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (<https://www.coara.org/agreement/the-agreement-full-text>)

2.1. General requirements.

The PI (Project author) submits the Application and the documents required for participation in the Call, as provided by the Terms, including documents addressed to the Foundation on behalf of the Legal Entity: an institution of higher education (as defined by the Law of Ukraine “On Higher Education”) of any organizational and legal form and of state or communal ownership, and a research institution (as defined by the Law of Ukraine “On Scientific and Scientific and Technical Activity”) of any organizational and legal form and of state or communal ownership. Such Legal Entities must:

- be registered in Ukraine in accordance with the procedure established by law;
- comply with the Terms;
- guarantee the provision of a base for conducting the research (developments) envisaged by the Project and for concluding the Agreement.

The restrictions on participation in this Call apply to individuals and legal entities subject to restrictive measures (sanctions) imposed by the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine.

Submission of Applications by researchers who, as of the date of submission, have had scientific cooperation with representatives of the aggressor state, temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, or individuals officially associated with them after February 24, 2022, as well as with legal entities established by the occupation authorities in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including individuals officially associated with them after March 18, 2014, **is prohibited**.

The Terms do not provide for the involvement of partners in the preparation of the Application or in the implementation of the Project.

The PI is the sole author and implementer of the Project.

The Application and the documents required for participation in the Call shall be submitted personally by the PI.

One individual may not submit more than one Application to this Call. Violation of this requirement shall be grounds for the rejection of all Applications submitted by such a PI.

A Project PI may not be an individual who is already designated as a PI in an Application submitted to another call for proposals of the Foundation for which the competitive selection has not yet been completed (with the exception of competitive selections for obtaining Grants of the President of Ukraine and the Award of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine named after Ihor Yukhnovskiy).

The PI may serve as an implementer (but in this case may not act as a PI) in no more than one other successful project of a different call of the Foundation, the funding of which is ongoing or has not yet commenced due to an unfinished

procedure for concluding an Agreement with the Grantee (at the same time, the Call Terms do not impose restrictions on participation in the Call as a PI for individuals who are the first authors or sole authors of research works that have been awarded the Award of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Early-Career Researchers).

A PI may be a researcher who:

- is employed **at the main place of employment** at the Legal Entity which shall be confirmed by supporting documents;
- holds an academic degree obtained in Ukraine or recognized in Ukraine by a decision of a competent state authority (which shall be confirmed by supporting documents).

The following individuals **can not** serve as PI:

- employees of the Directorate of the Foundation;
- members of the Scientific Council of the Foundation;
- members of the Supervisory Board of the Foundation;
- individuals whose main place of employment is a foreign institution;
- researchers who, at the time of submitting the Application, hold executive positions in the Legal Entity or exercise management over the Legal Entity, namely:
 - the head (rector, president, chief, director, etc.) or vice-rector of an institution of higher education;
 - the head (president, director general, chief designer, director, chief) or deputy head of a research institution;
 - the president, first vice-president, or vice-president of national or sectoral academies of sciences.

Individuals who are PIs of Projects submitted for participation in the Call may **not** be involved in organizing or conducting the scientific and scientific and technical reviewing of the Call Projects, either as members of the Call Commission or as reviewers.

Individuals against whom the Scientific Council of the Foundation has applied restrictive measures or actions limiting participation in the Foundation's calls for proposals are **not entitled** to participate in the Call.

The PI and the Legal Entity are responsible for the accuracy of the information provided in the Application and the documents attached thereto.

The discovery of false or inaccurate information in the documents submitted by an applicant shall be grounds for the rejection of the Application at any stage of the competitive selection process.

When submitting an Application for the Call and implementing the project, the project author shall follow the [The Regulations on Compliance with the Principles of Research Ethics and Conflict of Interests Prevention during competitive selections, scientific and scientific-technical reviewing of projects and consideration of applications for grant support submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine](#) including requirements regarding the prohibition of cooperation with representatives of the aggressor state and temporarily occupied territories.

Violation of these requirements shall be grounds for rejection of the Application.

Important!

Project authors submitting Applications, whose activities exhibit formal signs of cooperation with representatives of the aggressor state or the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, have the right to provide corresponding explanations and evidence demonstrating the absence of actual cooperation, together with the Application, for further consideration and decision by the Call Commission. Such explanations and evidence may be uploaded as one or more separate PDF files when submitting the Application in the “Documents” section.

In the event of the death or dismissal of the author (PI) from their main place of employment at the Legal Entity at any stage prior to the completion of the competitive selection of Projects, the Legal Entity shall inform the Grantor no later than three (3) working days.

If, from the moment of submitting the Application until the conclusion of the Agreement, the PI ceases to be employed at their main place of employment at the Legal Entity, the Agreement shall not be concluded, and the grant shall not be awarded.

2.2. Requirements for the PI

2.2.1. The PI of a Project in the fields of **Mathematical, Natural, Technical, Biological, Agricultural and Medical Sciences** may be a researcher who has a research degree obtained or recognized in Ukraine by a decision of competent state authority, works **at their main place of employment** in a Legal Entity, and meets the first criterion and at least three other criteria defined in the PI Questionnaire.

2.2.2. The PI of a Project in the fields of **Mathematical, Natural, Technical, Biological, Agricultural and Medical Sciences** who belongs to the category of early-career researchers in order to apply for the Call shall have a research degree obtained or recognized in Ukraine by a decision of competent state authority, work **at their main place of employment** in a Legal Entity, and meet the first criterion and at least two other criteria defined in the Project PI Questionnaire.

The age of an early-career researcher shall be determined as of the date of the submission of the Application via the Automated System 'NRFU Call for Projects'. The date of birth of the researcher submitting the Application shall be indicated in the curriculum vitae (CV).

The information provided for in Clauses 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 shall be clearly stated in the Application and in the attached documents (uploaded in separate files and to be assessed by reviewers):

- CV according to the approved form (in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#));
- a Questionnaire of the PI according to the approved form (Mathematical, Natural, Technical, Biological, Agricultural and Medical Sciences) in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#).

2.2.3. The PI of a Project in the fields of **Social Sciences and Humanities** may be a researcher who has a research degree obtained or recognised in Ukraine by a decision of competent state authority, works **at their main place of employment** in a Legal Entity, and meets the first criterion and at least three other criteria specified in the Questionnaire of the Project PI.

2.2.4. The PI of a Project in the fields of **Social Sciences and Humanities** who belongs to the category of early-career researchers in order to apply for the Call shall have a research degree obtained or recognized in Ukraine by a decision of competent state authority, work **at their main place of employment** in a Legal Entity, and meet the first criterion and at least two other criteria defined in the Project PI Questionnaire.

The age of an early-career researcher shall be determined as of the date of the submission of the Application via the Automated System 'NRFU Call for Projects'. The date of birth of the researcher submitting the Application shall be indicated in the curriculum vitae (CV).

The information provided for in Clauses 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 shall be clearly stated in the Application and in the attached documents (uploaded in separate files and to be assessed by reviewers):

- CV according to the approved form (in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#));
- a Questionnaire of the PI according to the approved form (Social Sciences and Humanities) in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#).

2.3. Implementation of the Project

A project submitted for participation in this Call cannot be simultaneously submitted for participation in another call for proposals for the purpose of obtaining funding. Nor may a project be submitted for participation in this Call that is or has been funded from any other source.

The Grantee and the Legal Entity, with which an Agreement has been concluded, are responsible for the continuous implementation of the Project tasks within each interim stage of its implementation and for the full completion of the Project.

Project implementers may not be affiliated to a foreign institution.

The PI shall implement the Project on the territory of Ukraine exclusively at the facilities of the Legal Entity.

The PI may not be replaced.

During the implementation of the Project, the PI may stay abroad for no more than 3 months in total per interim stage of the Project implementation. The Grantee and the Legal Entity are responsible for ensuring compliance with this requirement.

In cases where, while staying abroad, the PI receives monetary reward (remuneration) from sources other than the Legal Entity where they are employed in Ukraine, and/or from the Foundation's grant funds, they may not receive remuneration from the Foundation's grant funds. In cases when the PI receives monetary reward (remuneration) from sources other than the Legal Entity where they are employed in Ukraine, and/or from the Foundation's grant funds, while staying abroad, the Grantee shall notify the Foundation by an official letter (signed by hand) about the terms and conditions of such reward (remuneration).

Information on the funding of the Project by the NRFU (indicating the Project number and title) shall be indicated in all publications, official announcements, media materials, social media posts, other publicly available sources, and during presentations at research events aimed at disseminating the research results. Publications, announcements, and other materials that do not include this information may not be submitted by the Grantee when reporting on the results of the interim stages and the Project as a whole and will not be taken into account by the Scientific Council of the Foundation when reviewing the Project's reporting documentation. When assessing the results of individual interim stages and the overall Project outcomes, publications that acknowledge funding from multiple sources without a clear allocation of such funding to specific results and authors of the publication shall also not be credited.

Grantees shall take all available measures to promote the Project to the general public and the results obtained during its implementation. When planning the Project, it is recommended to define how the Project will align with open science practices. This includes open access to publications and FAIR data. In addition, it is advisable to consider how open science practices will be integrated into the Project's methodology and workflow. The Project should include a set of actions and strategies aimed at disseminating information about its progress and results in order to maximize its impact on individuals, organizations, and communities, including activities for promoting the outcomes achieved.

Dissemination of information on the Project's progress and results is an integral part of the Project and should be carried out throughout its duration, as well as after its completion. Each stage of the Project should include communication activities related to the specific stage of the research, specifying the structure and content of messages to be conveyed, the target audiences who will benefit most, and the most effective channels for their dissemination. The Terms of Reference for the implementation of the research (developments) (hereinafter – the ToR) shall specify the methods for the validation of research results and the ways of disseminating information on the Project's outcomes (from academic to public dissemination), including the number of such dissemination activities and the estimated number of participants.

During the implementation of the research (developments), pseudo-conferences (including congresses, symposia, workshops, etc.) and respective publications (conference proceedings, abstracts, etc.) to be unacceptable forms of approbation of the results of the research work of project implementers if their organizers/publishers are commercial non-academic structures whose main activity is to implement such events and publications on a paid basis and in absentia. Such events and publications only imitate research events and publications and are a profanation of scientific platforms for substantive professional scientific discussion, they discredit researchers and projects supported by the Foundation. Therefore, the Scientific Council of the Foundation will not take into account such conferences/publications as indicators of compliance with the ToR and Calendar Plan for the implementation of the research (developments). The Scientific Council of the Foundation invites project implementers to present the results of research work within the project at events and in publications organized by institutions of higher education, research institutions, and specialized professional associations of researchers (in a respective research area).

2.4. Requirements for the results of interim stages of project implementation and the final result of the Project

The Application and the ToR (see clauses 4.1 of the ToR) shall contain clear and **realistic** quantitative and qualitative indicators of the implementation of the project's goals and objectives, in particular – the number and format of planned research publications, specific characteristics/parameters of other research products that will be the result of research activities for each stage of project implementation and at its conclusion.

The **required** indicators of the **quality** of the implementation of the **interim and final stages** of the Project shall be the following:

1. for fundamental research – research publications of the highest level of research results, namely:

- for Natural, Technical, Mathematical, Biological, Medical and Agricultural Sciences – articles in publications that are indexed in the

Scopus scientometric database (Q1–Q4) and/or the Web of Science Core Collection (with no more than five co-authors in a single article); articles published in Ukrainian peer-reviewed journals of Category B that are indexed in international scientometric databases (with no more than three co-authors in a single article);

- for Social Sciences and Humanities – articles published in publications that are indexed in the Scopus scientometric database (Q1–Q4) and/or the Web of Science Core Collection (with no more than three co-authors in a single article); articles published in Ukrainian peer-reviewed journals of Category B that are indexed in international scientometric databases (with no more than two co-authors in a single article);
- single-author or collective monographs / other scholarly book-type publications (with no more than four co-authors in a single work), published in Ukraine with a recommendation for publication by the Academic Council of an institution of higher education / research institution, or published in a foreign language by an international publishing house; scientific outputs disseminated via electronic resources (databases / corpora, e-archives, e-catalogs, e-libraries, e-depositories, e-dictionaries, applications, etc.);

2. for applied research and scientific and technical (experimental) developments – an application for obtaining or the obtaining of an intellectual property rights protection document in Ukraine and/or other countries; applied results with a product description, depending on the Project’s objectives, in the form of a preliminary design, an experimental (prototype) model or its functional prototype, a draft regulatory legal act, a regulatory document, or scientific and methodological documents, etc., as well as at least one publication that meets the requirements specified in subparagraph 1 of paragraph 2.4 of the Terms.

Expected results should also include hypotheses, theories, new methods of knowledge, discoveries of laws of nature, previously unknown phenomena or properties of matter, as well as the identification of patterns in the development of society (for fundamental research), and new or substantially improved materials, products, processes, devices, technologies, and systems; intellectual property rights; new or substantially improved services; implemented new design or technological solutions; completed testing; and developments implemented or potentially applicable in public practice (for applied research and scientific and technical (experimental) developments).

The justification for research novelty (innovation) shall be set out in the ToR with a thorough comparison of the proposed research and its expected project results with analogues existing in world science.

The ToR shall outline the short-term, medium-term, and long-term impact of the proposed research on the development of the respective research area. It should be

justified how the expected results will contribute to the formation, developments, and strengthening of current trends in the respective field of knowledge, for example, through the creation of theoretical models, concepts, databases, or tools for analysis.

The ToR shall also contain:

- a clear description of potential impact on social and economic development, ecological stability, cultural identity and institutional transformation, resulting from the implementation of the planned research, indicating the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the Project both in Ukraine and internationally;
- clearly defined field(s) and pathways for the potential further application of the research (developments) results, as well as an outlined range of potential customers and stakeholders.

The intellectual property rights created during the implementation of the Project at the expense of grant support of the NRFU shall belong to the Grantee, except for the cases provided for by Part Two of Article 11 of the Law of Ukraine “On State Regulation of Activity in the Sphere of Transfer of Technologies”.

2.5. General ethical aspects of conducting research

When preparing the Application, the standards and ethical norms respective to the specific scientific field, including those established by international regulations shall be considered. The ToR shall include a clear description of the ethics of the research and developments, providing information on how the most important ethical issues are addressed during the Project implementation. Responsibility for compliance with research ethics standards shall be ensured by the author (the PI) of the Project. The work of the Call Commission and the scientific and technical reviewing of Projects do not include the assessment of general ethical aspects of the planned research under the Projects submitted to the Call. When providing information on addressing the most significant ethical issues during the implementation of the Project, the following aspects, among others, should be taken into account:

- **compliance with standards and ethical norms respective to the specific scientific field (if applicable).** If the Project involves work with objects requiring specific ethical regulation, the Call Applicant shall ensure compliance with ethical standards, including the principles of humanity, voluntary participation, informed consent, protection of confidential information, as well as the minimization of potential ethical risks and the responsible use of research results;
- **conducting research taking into account environmental safety (if applicable).** When planning and conducting research, it is necessary to foresee and take all possible measures to prevent harm to the environment

and to make efforts for the rational use of natural resources and to reduce CO₂ emissions;

- **responsible use of artificial intelligence tools (if applicable).** If artificial intelligence (AI) tools are used within the Project, the authors (PIs) shall ensure that they are applied in a manner consistent with high ethical standards and the principles of safe, transparent, and non-discriminatory operation of algorithmic systems. In such cases, the Application and the reporting documents shall indicate:
 - the purpose, scope, methods and tools of AI application within the Project;
 - risk management measures related to the protection of personal and sensitive data, potential algorithmic biases and prevention of discrimination, accuracy, reproducibility, and technical reliability of results, transparency of the tools used and the possibility of human verification; compliance with copyright and intellectual property rights;
 - AI consultations among the list of used information resources, specifying its contribution.

The use of AI does not relieve researchers of responsibility for the content and interpretation of results. All conclusions obtained with AI involvement shall be verified, assessed, and confirmed by the PI.

2.6. Reporting

The Foundation ensures control over the implementation of the Agreements. In case of a breach of the terms and conditions of the Agreement, enforcement measures may be applied to the Grantee and/or the Legal Entity in accordance with the legislation, based on the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation.

In the event of a significant change in circumstances that may lead to non-fulfillment of the Agreement, such Agreement may be amended - prior to the completion of the interim stage of the Project as defined in the Agreement - with respect to the necessary terms and conditions for its implementation, within the established estimated cost. The decision to amend the necessary terms and conditions for Project implementation is made by the Scientific Council of the Foundation at the initiative of the Grantee and/or the Legal Entity. The Grantee and/or the Legal Entity submits proposals to the Foundation regarding amendments to the Agreement, including justification and supporting documents, in accordance with the procedure established by the Agreement. The Foundation reviews the proposals and provides the Grantee and/or the Legal Entity with a response containing the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation no later than 20 working days from the date of receipt of the proposals. In the event of a positive decision by the Scientific Council of the Foundation, an additional agreement to

the Agreement is concluded regarding the amendment of the Project implementation terms.

After the completion of the first interim stage of the Project implementation, the Grantee and/or the Legal Entity shall submit to the Foundation both electronically and in a single hard copy the following documents, in the structure and format approved by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation: a report on the interim results of the Project, a financial report on the use of budgetary funds, as well as other documents stipulated in the Agreement. These documents constitute the prerequisite for making a decision on the continuation or termination of the Project's grant support.

Such a decision is made by the Scientific Council of the Foundation in accordance with the procedure established by law, based on the results of the review of the Grantee's reports.

Approval of the documents specified in the preceding paragraph of these Terms shall serve as the basis for signing the Certificate of Completion of the interim stage of the Project implementation.

The grounds for making a decision to terminate the grant support may include:

- a justified conclusion of the Scientific Council of the respective Section of the Foundation regarding a breach of essential terms of the Agreement;
- a justified conclusion of the Scientific Council of the respective Section of the Foundation regarding the grantee's inability to implement the Project;
- a justified conclusion of the Scientific Council of the respective Section of the Foundation regarding the loss of relevance of the expected Project results due to scientific, technological, or economic reasons;
- a decision of the Scientific Council of the respective Section of the Foundation concerning the misuse of funds by the Grantee and/or the Legal Entity, adopted on the basis of a corresponding notification from the state financial control authority following the implementation of state financial control measures.

In the event that the Foundation identifies a breach by the Grantee and/or the Legal Entity of the essential terms of the Agreement, the Scientific Council of the Foundation shall make a decision to terminate the grant support and require the Grantee to return the full amount of the grant, specifying the deadline for repayment in accordance with the terms and conditions set in the Agreement.

If a state financial control authority establishes the fact of misuse of funds by the Grantee and/or the Legal Entity in the course of Project implementation, the

amount of funds used for purposes other than intended shall be returned to the Foundation in accordance with the procedure established by law.

In the event of termination of grant support by decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation, a report on the interim results of the project implementation and a financial report on the use of budgetary funds within the stage are posted on the official website of the Foundation within **five working days** after approval of the reporting documentation by the Scientific Council of the Foundation.

If the Grantee and/or the Legal Entity refuses to conclude the Agreement for the second interim stage of the Project implementation, the Foundation shall apply restrictive measures to the Grantee and/or the Legal Entity, including with regard to the further participation of such individuals in the Foundation's calls for proposals.

After the completion of the Project, the Grantee and/or the Legal Entity shall submit to the Foundation, in electronic form and in one hard copy, the following documents in the structure and format approved by the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation: a final report on the Project implementation describing the research results obtained, a financial report on the use of budgetary funds (for the respective stage), a report on the use of budgetary funds within the framework of the Project implementation, as well as other documents provided for in the Agreement.

Approval of the documents specified in the preceding paragraph of these Terms shall serve as the basis for signing the Certificate of Completion of the interim (final) stage of the Project implementation.

Within the framework of monitoring the compliance with the obligations set in the Agreement, the Foundation analyzes reports on the results of Project implementation and the use of budgetary funds within the Project, as well as shall also ensure the publication, within **five working days**, on its official website, of information on the Project results together with the final report on its implementation, including references to published research works and the report on the use of budgetary funds within the Project. Such information shall be made publicly available as open data in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Access to Public Information".

In the event of violations of the terms and conditions of the Agreement, other than breaches of its essential terms, the Grantee and/or the Legal Entity may be subject to enforcement measures in accordance with the legislation, as decided by the Scientific Council of the Foundation.

The Grantee and the Legal Entity shall complete the state registration procedure of the research activity under the Project no later than the deadlines established by the legislation of Ukraine.

Based on the assessment of the quality of Projects implementation and the publication (disclosure) of its results, or in the event of detection of research cooperation by the Project authors (implementers) with representatives of the aggressor state or temporarily occupied territories, restrictive measures/enforcement measures may be applied to the Projects authors (implementers) by decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation.

III. TERMS, TIME AND VENUE OF THE CALL

The terms and conditions of the competitive selection are specified in all clauses of this document which are mandatory.

The Call is to be held **from 01.04.2026 to 15.12.2026** (tentative)

Venue: Borysa Hrinchenka Street, 1, Kyiv, Ukraine.

IV. PROCEDURE FOR ACCEPTANCE (RECEIPT), REGISTRATION AND PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

4.1. Application and documents for participation in the Call are submitted by the PI of the Project in Ukrainian and English in accordance with the requirements set by the Terms of this Call, with a mandatory indication of such PI's consent to its implementation on the official website of the Foundation (<https://grants.nrfu.org.ua/index.html>) (only via the Automated System 'NRFU Call for Projects').

To submit an Application the PI shall complete pre-registration in the Automated System 'NRFU Call for Projects' on the official website of the NRFU.

Applications for participation in the Call shall be submitted using the form established by the Foundation. Together with the Application, the Project's PI shall submit the documents listed in Clause 6.1 of the Terms.

No replacement or clarifications to the submitted Applications by the Call applicants after the submission deadline is allowed, except for the case specified in Clause 19 of the Procedure for the Competitive Selection and Financing Research and Developments Projects by the National Research Foundation of Ukraine, approved by Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 27 December 2019, No. 1170.

Registration of the Applications for participation in the Call is performed automatically in the NRFU via the Automated System 'NRFU Call for Projects'. An Application is considered submitted if it is received through the Automated System 'NRFU Call for Projects' and signed with a qualified electronic signature (QES).

It is recommended that the completed Application for grant support be submitted at least 48 hours before the deadline for submitting the

Applications. This will help applicants avoid technical issues when submitting the Application.

4.2. Within ten working days from the date of posting on the official website of the Foundation the announcement of the call, the Scientific Council of the section of the Foundation elects at its meeting by open voting the Call Commission from among recognized researchers in the field (with their consent).

Members of the Call Commission may not include members of the Foundation's management bodies, as well as authors of projects submitted for participation in the Call. The Call Commission shall carry out its activities in accordance with the Regulations on Compliance with the Principles of Research Ethics and Conflict of Interest Prevention during competitive selections, scientific and scientific and technical reviewing of projects and consideration of applications for grant support submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine under the grant support programmes of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine.

4.3. The Directorate of the Foundation, within the framework of providing organizational support for conducting and organizing calls by the Foundation, on the next working day after the date of the end of the application submission period, starts checking applications for compliance with formal requirements. This check is carried out in two stages: preliminary and final. The preliminary check is carried out within **10 working days** from the deadline for application submission.

If the preliminary check reveals that the documents submitted by the Applicant do not contain the information required in the Terms, the Directorate of the Foundation notifies the applicant by electronic means of communication of the need to submit the clarified information within **three working days** from the date of notification.

After the deadline for submitting the updated information, the Directorate of the Foundation, **within 10 working days**, conducts a final check of the documents submitted by the Applicant for compliance with the formal requirements taking into account this information.

Grounds for rejection of the Application due to non-compliance with formal requirements:

- non-compliance of the Application submitted by the Call applicant with the form provided for in the Terms;
- absence of documents required by the Terms;
- absence or incomplete provision of information in the documents submitted by the Applicant required by the Terms;

- inconsistency of the information provided in the Application with the requirements set forth in the Terms, including the requirement that project author holds a research degree obtained or recognized in Ukraine by a decision of a competent public authority, the inclusion in the Application of information on the implementation of the Project by other persons (implementers), in addition to the PI, as well as requirements for Legal Entities;
- the Project PI is included in more than one Application submitted to this Call;
- the Project PI is already indicated as a PI in an application submitted for another call for proposals of the Foundation, the competitive selection of which is ongoing or has not been completed yet;
- the Project PI is already a PI of a successful project in another call for proposals of the Foundation, the funding of which is ongoing or has not started yet due to the pending procedure of concluding a grant agreement with a grantee;
- the Project PI is already indicated as an implementer of more than one successful project in another call for proposals of the Foundation the funding of which is ongoing or has not started yet due to the pending procedure of concluding a grant agreement with a grantee;
- execution of documents submitted for participation in the Call in non-compliance with the procedure or form established by the Call or the requirements for execution of documents established by law;
- exceeding the maximum amount of funding specified in the Terms for one project as a whole and for each stage separately;
- planning of project activities beyond the project duration provided for in the Terms (clause 1.4 of the Terms);
- violation of the requirements regarding restrictions on participation in this Call of individuals and legal entities subject to restrictive measures (sanctions) of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine;
- existence of valid restrictive measures/enforcement measures applied by the Scientific Council of the Foundation to the Project author (PI) and/or Legal Entity.

The Directorate of the NRFU informs the respective applicant about the rejection of the Application on formal requirements in electronic form within three working days after the deadline for checking applications for compliance with formal requirements.

4.4. Criteria for the preliminary review of Projects (including compliance with the purpose, thematic areas and the Terms). Within 10 working days from the date of completion of the Directorate's final eligibility check of applications for compliance with formal requirements, conducts their preliminary review regarding compliance with the Terms, in particular, the criteria determined by the Scientific Council of the Foundation, detection of false information in the documents submitted by the applicant.

The non-compliance of the documents submitted by the applicant with the terms and conditions of the call, in particular with the criteria for the selection of projects determined by the Scientific Council of the Foundation, the discovery of false information in the documents submitted by the applicant are the basis for withdrawing the application from consideration based on the results of its preliminary review.

Grounds for withdrawal of applications from consideration during the preliminary review:

- inconsistency of the submitted project with the purpose, thematic areas (justification for such compliance is to be provided in the text of the Application) or the Terms;
- the applicant provided false information;
- inconsistency of the submitted project with the Regulations on compliance with the principles of scientific ethics and prevention of conflicts of interest during competitive selection, scientific and scientific and technical expertise of projects and consideration of applications for grant support submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine in the areas of grant support of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine;
- the qualification level of the Project PI does not meet the criteria set out in the Terms (see Section II of the Terms).

The identification of false or misleading information in the documents submitted by a Call applicant shall constitute grounds for the removal of the Application from consideration at any stage of the competitive selection.

Based on the results of the preliminary review of applications for compliance with the Terms, in particular the criteria determined by the Scientific Council of the Foundation, in the event that false information is found in the documents submitted by the applicant, the Call Commission approves the list of Applications that are withdrawn from consideration.

The directorate of the Foundation notifies the respective applicant in electronic form no later than three working days after the adoption of the decision of the Call Commission to withdraw the Application from consideration on the basis of

non-compliance with the Terms, in particular the criteria by which projects are selected, determined by the Scientific Council of the Foundation, the discovery of false information in the documents submitted by the Applicant.

If the Application complies with the Terms, the Call Commission shall submit the Project to experts for scientific and scientific and technical reviewing within the time limits established by [The Procedure for Conducting Scientific and Scientific-Technical Reviewing of Projects and Consideration of Applications for Grant Support Submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine](#).

The Call Commission organizes and performs its work in three panels:

- Panel of Natural, Technical and Mathematical Sciences;
- Panel of Biological, Medical and Agricultural Sciences;
- Panel of Social Sciences and Humanities.

V. DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION AND REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEWING OF PROJECTS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE CALL

5.1. Date and time of the start of application submission: 01.04.2026, 00:01 Kyiv time.

Date and time of application submission deadline: 01.05.2026, 23:59 Kyiv time.

Period for conducting scientific and technical reviewing and announcement of the results of the Call: until 15.12.2026 (tentatively).

The decisions regarding the rejection of a submitted Application due to non-compliance with formal requirements, the approval of the list of Applications withdrawn from consideration, and the formation of the ranking list and the list of successful projects of the competitive selection shall not be subject to review by the Foundation.

5.2. Information on the results of the Call shall be posted on the official website of the Foundation and shall include:

- 1) the decision of the Scientific Council of the Foundation on approval of the results of the Call;
- 2) the list of Projects recommended for implementation with the grant support from the Foundation, and the amount of funding;
- 3) the ranking list of projects with the points scored by each Project.

In determining the scores obtained by each Project, the results shall be rounded to one decimal place.

The cut-off point of the list of Projects recommended for implementation with the grant support from the Foundation shall be determined in direct relation to the ranking list of Projects, the total amount of funding allocated for Projects under the Terms, the number of Projects submitted to the Call, and their respective funding amounts.

When compiling the list of Projects recommended for implementation with the grant support from the Foundation, the Call Commission shall apply the following criteria to determine the cut-off point of the list in cases where several Projects receive an equal number of points:

- Projects whose PIs are women shall be placed higher in the list;
- where both the score and gender criteria are identical, Projects shall be ranked according to the age of their PIs, from younger (higher in the list) to older (lower in the list).

The PI is sent a textual justification of the scores received by the Project based on the results of the scientific and technical reviewing by email.

VI. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CALL AND UPON SIGNING THE AGREEMENT

6.1. Documents for participation in the Call shall be submitted in Ukrainian and in English in electronic form on the website of the NRFU (<https://grants.nrfu.org.ua>) (via the Automated System ‘NRFU Call for Projects’).

The documents submitted for participation in the Call in the approved form shall be executed in strict compliance with the form and content of the respective document.

Documents to be submitted by the applicant together with the Application via the Automated System ‘NRFU Call for Projects’ (electronic form):

1. Consent of the researcher (Project author) submitting the Application and the documents required for participation in the Call for implementation of the Project (indicated in the Automated System ‘NRFU Call for Projects’ using a qualified electronic signature via the Project author's personal account).

2. A Letter of Guarantee from the Legal Entity which confirmed the commitment to ensure the conduct of the research envisaged by the Project [in the form](#) approved by the Foundation. The Letter of Guarantee from the Legal Entity shall be submitted in Ukrainian and signed by the head of the Legal Entity or its acting head.

3. Certificate from the place of employment of the PI **with a mandatory indication that he/she works at the main place of work** in the Legal Entity (a

scanned copy, [in the approved form](#)). **NOTE:** the certificate shall contain the phrase ‘**AT THE MAIN PLACE OF WORK**’.

4. CV of the PI (a scanned copy, in the approved form, template in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#)).

5. Questionnaire of the PI, in the approved form, in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#) (Social Sciences and Humanities), and in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#) (Mathematical, Natural, Biological, Agricultural and Medical Sciences).

6. Terms of Reference for the research (developments), in the approved form (a scanned copy, template in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#)).

7. Calendar Plan for the research (developments), in the approved form (a scanned copy, template in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#)).

8. Cost estimate of the Project in the approved form (a scanned copy, template in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#)).

9. Explanations and evidence regarding the absence of collaboration with representatives of the aggressor state and temporary occupied territories (if necessary) (a scanned copy, in Ukrainian, personally signed by the PI).

6.2. Documents, that the winner of the Call submits to the NRFU in paper form (originals certified by signatures and seals) when concluding an Agreement (*at the time of concluding Agreements with the winners of the Call, the current versions of the documents shall be submitted to the Foundation in hard copy (originals certified by signatures and seals). The information contained in these documents must correspond to the information in the documents submitted together with the Application:*

1. Grant Agreement with Annexes.

2. A Letter of Guarantee from the Legal Entity which confirmed the commitment to ensure the conduct of the research (developments) envisaged by the Project [in the form](#) approved by the Foundation. The Letter of Guarantee from the Legal Entity shall be submitted in Ukrainian and signed by the head of the Legal Entity or its acting head.

3. Certificate from the place of employment of the PI **with a mandatory indication that he/she works at the main place of work** in the Legal Entity. **NOTE:** the certificate shall contain the phrase ‘**AT THE MAIN PLACE OF WORK**’ ([template form of the certificate](#)).

4. CV of the PI (in the approved form, template in [Ukrainian](#) and [English](#)).

5. Questionnaire of the PI, in the approved form, in Ukrainian ([Social Sciences and Humanities](#)), ([Mathematical, Natural, Biological, Agricultural and Medical](#)

Sciences) and English (Social Sciences and Humanities), (Mathematical, Natural, Biological, Agricultural and Medical Sciences).

6. Informed consent from the PI in the approved form (in Ukrainian, signed by hand).

7. Certified copies of Ukrainian passport and the taxpayer ID number (except for individuals who have a note in their passport granting the right to make any payments using the passport series (if available) and number).

VII. TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING FOR PROJECTS TO BE SELECTED BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE CALL

The total amount of funding for the Projects to be selected for the Call is up to UAH 100 mln (up to UAH 50 mln in 2027 and up to UAH 50 mln in 2028).

Total funding per Project is up to UAH 1 mln (up to UAH 500 ths. per year (stage) of project implementation) (including taxes, statutory charges, and fees).

The Project is to be implemented over two stages: the first (interim) stage in 2027 and the second (final) stage in 2028.

Reallocation of funds between the above-mentioned stages of Project implementation shall not be permitted. Funding for each stage of Project implementation shall be provided strictly within the maximum funding limits established for that stage under the Terms. Increasing the funding allocated to any stage at the expense of reducing the funding of another stage of Project implementation is prohibited.

Important: When completing the “Funding” section of the application, the planned funding amounts for each stage of the Project and for the Project as a whole shall be stated in **UAH (Ukrainian hryvnias)**, without decimals or hundredths. No spaces are allowed between the digits (**format: 3350000**).

By submitting an Application for the Call, applicants thereby confirm that they have complied with the condition that the submitted Project may not be simultaneously submitted for participation in another call for proposals for the purpose of obtaining funding from public funds, nor may it be submitted if such a Project is or has been funded from other sources.

Based on the results of the Call, grant support will be provided exclusively for individual research (developments) projects that are not part of studies that have already been conducted or are currently underway. The grant is awarded to the Grantee in an amount equal to the full cost of the work required to implement the Project.

The terms and procedure for funding Projects depend on the amount of budget allocations provided in the state budget for the respective year to finance the activities of the National Research Foundation of Ukraine.

Expenditures related to the implementation of the Project shall include exclusively remuneration costs for the Project's PI, including the respective statutory payroll contributions.

VIII. NUMBER OF REVIEWERS CONDUCTING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW OF THE PROJECT

Scientific and technical review of the project submitted to the Call is performed by 3 reviewers, at least one of which shall be a foreign reviewer.

Upon a justified recommendation from the Call Commission, the Scientific Council of the Foundation may decide to engage a Ukrainian reviewer in the Project review instead of a foreign one. Such a decision may be made only if the Call Commission has taken all possible measures to ensure the participation of a foreign reviewer in the Project assessment, specifically: the Call Commission has contacted all foreign reviewers with research experience in a field closely related to the Project's subject area, who are included in the NRFU Expert Database of the Automated System 'NRFU Call for Projects' and either received refusals from them to conduct the review or received no response, in accordance with the provisions of the [The Procedure for Conducting Scientific and Scientific-Technical Reviewing of Projects and Consideration of Applications for Grant Support Submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine](#), including provisions regarding repeated communication with a potential reviewer to respond to the request. The Call Commission shall inform the Scientific Council of the Foundation of the actions taken to ensure the engagement of a foreign reviewer in the Project review when submitting a proposal to engage a Ukrainian reviewer instead of a foreign one.

Members of the Foundation's management bodies and the Call Commission, as well as PIs of Projects submitted for participation in this Call may not be involved in scientific and scientific and technical reviewing.

IX. CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEM FOR PROJECT SELECTION

9.1. The selection of Projects is carried out in accordance with the procedure defined in the [The Procedure for Conducting Scientific and Scientific-Technical Reviewing of Projects and Consideration of Applications for Grant Support Submitted to the National Research Foundation of Ukraine](#).

The assessment of Projects is carried out by independent reviewers according to the system and criteria defined by the Terms and approved by the Scientific Council of the NRFU.

9.2. Each Project is assessed according to the following criteria:

- quality of the planned research;
- significance of the Project for the further development of science / engineering / technologies / society (in accordance with the Project's scope);
- feasibility and realism of the Project implementation plan.

Each criterion includes several assessment subcriteria with their own weighting coefficient.

The assessment for each criterion is carried out by a reviewer with a 5-point scale and obligatory provision of the appropriate justification.

The number of points for a criterion is calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the points for the subcriteria under that criterion.

The total number of points of the Project is calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the points by criteria, multiplied by 20.

For Project assessment, a 5-point scale with the following points value is used for each criterion:

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| 0 – Poor | The Project does not meet the criterion or cannot be assessed due to the absence or incompleteness of the information provided for by this criterion. |
| 1 – Unsatisfactory | Information as of assessed criterion is inadequately presented or has critical deficiencies. |
| 2 – Satisfactory | In general, the Project meets the criterion, but at the same time there are significant shortcomings. |
| 3 – Good | The Project meets the criterion, but there are some shortcomings. |
| 4 – Very good | The Project meets the criterion very well, but improvement is possible. |
| 5 – Excellent | The Project fully meets the criterion. |

9.3. The following criteria, weighting coefficients, and form are used to assess the Project:

| Assessment criteria | Rating scale | Weighting coefficient (The sum of the weighting coefficients of all criteria equals 1.0) |
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| <p>1. Quality of the proposed research</p> <p>Within this criterion, the justification of the research project, its orientation towards addressing a respective research issue, the clarity of the formulation of the goal and objectives, their compliance with the current level of research knowledge, the novelty of the research idea, the originality of the research hypothesis, and the appropriateness of the selected research methodology and methods for testing the research hypothesis are assessed.</p> | <p>From 0 to 5</p> <p>The number of points per aspect is calculated as an arithmetic mean weighted points according to the criteria</p> | <p>0,4</p> |
| <p>1.1. Motivation and justification of the research concept: whether the current state of research and issue requiring solution are adequately described with appropriate references.</p> | <p>0-5</p> | <p>0,2</p> |
| <p><i>Comments: Criteria for scoring the sub-criterion 1.1</i></p> <p><i>0 points - there is no motivation or justification of the research concept; no references to respective sources on the Project topic are provided; the research concept is absent;</i></p> <p><i>1 point - regarding the motivation and justification of the research concept, references are provided to sources that are not relevant to the Project's subject matter; the concept is not justified, the motivation is unclear and presented formally without real argumentation;</i></p> <p><i>2 points - there is a fragmented justification and shallow motivation of the Project's research concept; individual references to sources related to the Project's subject matter are provided; the Project concept lacks a research basis, and no argumentation is provided;</i></p> | | |

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| <p><i>3 points - there is partial justification and superficial motivation of the Project's research concept; references to individual respective sources are provided; the research concept is partially substantiated: an indirect link between existing research and the proposed solution is shown; logical contradictions or uncertainties are present;</i></p> <p><i>4 points - there is sufficient justification and motivation of the Project's research concept; references to respective sources are provided; the Project's research concept is sufficiently substantiated: a link between existing research and the proposed solution is demonstrated;</i></p> <p><i>5 points - there is deep justification and motivation of the Project's research concept; references to respective sources are provided; the Project's research concept is convincingly substantiated: a close link between existing research and the proposed solution is demonstrated.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Attention should be paid to the quality of sources; priority should be given to peer-reviewed research articles, up-to-date monographs, and patents. If the Project is based on the authors' previous research, this should be clearly indicated.</i></p> | | |
| <p>1.2. Relevance and novelty of the research ideas of the Project</p> | <p>0-5</p> | <p>0,3</p> |
| <p><i>Comments: Criteria for scoring the sub-criterion 1.2</i></p> <p><i>0 points - the Project shows no signs of relevance or novelty; the research does not propose new ideas or approaches to solving the stated issue, or proposes solutions that contradict established research concepts and data;</i></p> <p><i>1 point - the Project repeats already known solutions without significant changes; the authors attempt to present the idea as new and relevant but provide no evidence of its originality; the proposed ideas are obvious and trivial;</i></p> <p><i>2 points - the Project idea is not fundamentally new or relevant, but contains certain elements of originality and novelty (for example, a new context of application of an existing method); there is no clear justification of novelty and relevance, and most concepts are borrowed;</i></p> <p><i>3 points - the Project proposes modification or improvement of known ideas without a substantial difference from established concepts; some ideas and concepts are borrowed; comparisons</i></p> | | |

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| <p><i>with current research are provided; partial justification of novelty and relevance is present;</i></p> <p><i>4 points - the Project idea is original but may partially overlap with certain existing works, complementing or modifying established approaches and concepts; novelty and relevance are demonstrated, but not all provisions of the Project are unique;</i></p> <p><i>5 points - the Project idea is highly innovative and has no analogues in the research field; it demonstrates how the proposed approaches fill gaps in existing research or lead to the emergence of a new research direction; novelty and relevance are correlated with publications on the Project topic from the last 3–5 years.</i></p> <p><i>Note: If the Project is based on the author's previous research, novelty and relevance should relate to further development rather than repetition. Ideas with a high level of novelty and relevance often involve greater uncertainty - this is not a disadvantage, provided that they are properly justified.</i></p> | | |
| <p>1.3. Clarity and accuracy of the formulated research goal and objectives</p> | <p>0-5</p> | <p>0,2</p> |
| <p><i>Comments: Criteria for scoring the sub-criterion 1.3</i></p> <p><i>0 points - the Project goal is absent or formulated incorrectly and does not correspond to the Project topic. The research objectives are not defined or have no logical connection with the goal.</i></p> <p><i>1 point - the Project goal is absent or formulated as a process (for example, "to investigate", "to study") without indicating a final result. The objectives are only formally outlined, do not correspond to the research goal, and their wording is unclear.</i></p> <p><i>2 points - the Project goal is defined but does not indicate a final result, only briefly outlines the research problem and/or is not related to the research subject. The research objectives are formulated, but some of them are not specific or do not correspond to the goal.</i></p> <p><i>3 points - the Project goal is clearly formulated and includes a final result. The research objectives are logically connected</i></p> | | |

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| <p><i>with each other and correspond to the goal, but some of them are too broad or too narrow.</i></p> <p><i>4 points - the Project goal is clearly formulated and justified and includes a specific final result. The objectives are clearly and correctly formulated, logically connected with each other and with the goal, but some of them may be general in nature and not reflect a specific result.</i></p> <p><i>5 points - the Project goal is clearly formulated, well justified, and includes a specific final result. The research objectives fully correspond to the goal, are logically structured and interconnected, comprehensively cover the research problem; the number of objectives is optimal for achieving the goal, and each objective is aimed at a specific result.</i></p> | | |
| <p>1.4. Adequacy of the proposed methodological research approaches and research methods and their correspondence to the goal and objectives of the Project</p> | <p>0-5</p> | <p>0,3</p> |
| <p><i>Comments: Criteria for scoring the sub-criterion 1.4.</i></p> <p><i>0 points - methodological approaches are not defined; research methods are not specified or are completely irrelevant to the aim and objectives of the Project, do not correspond to the research problem; justification of the choice of methods is absent;</i></p> <p><i>1 point - methodological approaches are mentioned only briefly; preference is given to abstract or theoretical approaches that cannot ensure the achievement of the formulated objectives. Research methods are formally indicated, have only an indirect connection to the Project aim or are ineffective for addressing the defined problem; justification of the choice of methods is superficial or absent;</i></p> <p><i>2 points - methodological approaches are outlined in general terms; research methods are indicated, but most of them have only an indirect connection to the Project aim or are ineffective for addressing the defined problem; only part of the methods ensures the achievement of the formulated objectives; justification of the choice of methods is superficial and does not correlate with the expected results;</i></p> <p><i>3 points - methodological approaches are defined; research methods are specified, and most of them correspond to the</i></p> | | |

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| <p><i>Project aim and ensure the achievement of the formulated objectives, but some of them are ineffective for addressing the defined problem; justification of the choice of methods contains certain inconsistencies and partially correlates with the expected results;</i></p> <p><i>4 points - methodological approaches are defined; research methods are specified and ensure the achievement of the Project aim and the formulated objectives; they are modern and effective for addressing the defined problem. The choice of methods is well justified and ensures correlation with the expected results;</i></p> <p><i>5 points - methodological approaches are defined; research methods are specified and fully correspond to the Project aim, ensure the achievement of the formulated objectives, and are innovative and effective for addressing the stated problem. The choice of methods is well justified and ensures correlation with the expected results; the application of methods is described in detail within a specific context.</i></p> | | |
| | Weighted average score | |
| <p>2. Significance of the Project for the further development of science / engineering / technology / society (in accordance with the Project's scope)</p> <p>This section provides for the assessment of the clarity and justification of the prospects for further application of the research results with the aim of advancing science and new technologies and addressing societal challenges. The completeness and potential effectiveness of the validation of the research results are taken into account.</p> | <p>From 0 to 5</p> <p>The number of points per aspect is calculated as an arithmetic mean weighted points according to the criteria</p> | 0,3 |
| <p>2.1. Potential significance of the expected results and new knowledge in comparison with the best international achievements in addressing the defined research issues, development of new approaches, methods and technologies, and/or their importance for addressing respective practical scientific / technical / societal issues.</p> | 0-5 | 0,6 |

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| <p><i>Comments: Criteria for scoring under sub-criterion 2.1.</i></p> <p><i>0 points - the expected results of the Project are not defined; the novelty of potential results in the respective field of science is absent; pathways for further application of the potential Project results are not presented;</i></p> <p><i>1 point - the expected results of the Project are outlined without clear formulation; the novelty of potential results is only briefly mentioned; pathways for further application of the potential Project results are not described;</i></p> <p><i>2 points - the expected results of the Project are declared and partially formulated; the novelty of the stated results is insufficiently elaborated, without comparisons with existing achievements in the respective field of science; sporadic / fragmentary information is provided on the areas of further application of the expected Project results;</i></p> <p><i>3 points - the expected results of the Project are formulated without detailed elaboration; the novelty of the stated results is insufficiently justified based on partial comparisons with existing achievements in the respective field of science; the area of further application of the expected Project results is declared but not fully characterized;</i></p> <p><i>4 points - the expected results of the Project are formulated with partial detail; the novelty of the stated results is identified based on individual comparisons with existing achievements in the respective field of science; the area of further application of the expected Project results is characterized without detailed elaboration;</i></p> <p><i>5 points - the expected results of the Project are clearly formulated and detailed; the novelty of the stated results is identified based on comprehensive comparisons with existing achievements in the respective field of science; the area of further application of the expected Project results is described in detail.</i></p> | | |
| <p>2.2. Relevance and effectiveness of the planned pathways for validation and/or implementation of the research results (expected publications, presentations at international research conferences and other events of an appropriate academic format, intellectual property protection documents, IP rights, documents confirming cooperation with manufacturers</p> | <p>0-5</p> | <p>0,2</p> |

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| <p>regarding the implementation of the final applied result of the Project, etc.).</p> | | |
| <p><i>Comments: Criteria and explanations for scoring the sub-criterion 2.2</i></p> <p><i>0 points - forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results are not presented; pathways for dissemination of the expected Project results are not provided or do not correspond to the academic level; no planned publications are indicated;</i></p> <p><i>1 point - forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results are only partially presented and do not correspond to the academic level; there is no correlation between the forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results and the Project objectives; no publications in high-status academic journals are planned;</i></p> <p><i>2 points - forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results are presented, but include only presentations at national and regional conferences and/or other events without international status; forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results partially correlate with the Project objectives; no publications in high-status academic journals are planned;</i></p> <p><i>3 points - forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results are presented and include presentations at conferences and/or other events, including those with international status; forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results mostly correlate with the Project objectives; planned publications are exclusively in peer-reviewed Ukrainian journals of Category B;</i></p> <p><i>4 points (for mathematical, technical, natural, biological, agricultural, and medical sciences) - forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results are presented and include presentations at conferences and/or other events with international status; forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results are substantiated and correlate with the Project objectives; planned publications include peer-reviewed Ukrainian journals of Category B and journals indexed in Scopus (Q1–Q4) and/or the Web of Science Core Collection (and must comply with the quality indicators specified in Clause 2.4 of the Terms) and/or</i></p> | | |

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| <p><i>an application has been submitted for obtaining or an intellectual property protection document for IP rights in Ukraine and/or other countries has been obtained (for projects involving applied research (developments)).</i></p> <p><i>4 points (for social sciences and humanities): forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results are presented and include presentations at conferences and/or other events with international status; the forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results are justified and correlate with the Project objectives; planned publications include peer-reviewed Ukrainian journals of Category B (and must comply with the quality indicators specified in Clause 2.4 of the Terms) and journals indexed in scientometric databases Scopus (Q1–Q4) and/or Web of Science Core Collection (and must comply with the quality indicators specified in Clause 2.4 of the Terms);</i></p> <p><i>5 points (for mathematical, technical, natural, biological, agricultural, and medical sciences): forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results are presented and include presentations at conferences and/or other events with international status; the forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results are justified and correlate with the Project objectives, and comply with the highest standards in the respective field of science; planned publications include journals indexed in scientometric databases Scopus (Q1–Q2) and/or Web of Science Core Collection (and must comply with the quality indicators specified in Clause 2.4 of the Terms); an application has been submitted for obtaining or an intellectual property protection document in Ukraine and/or other countries has been obtained (for projects involving applied research (developments));</i></p> <p><i>5 points (for social sciences and humanities): forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results are presented and include presentations at conferences and/or other events with international status; the forms of validation and/or implementation of the expected Project results are justified and correlate with the Project objectives, and comply with the highest standards in the respective field of science; planned publications include peer-reviewed Ukrainian journals of Category B (and must comply with the quality indicators specified in Clause 2.4 of the Terms) and journals indexed in scientometric databases Scopus (Q1–Q4) and/or</i></p> | | |
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| <p><i>Web of Science Core Collection (and must comply with the quality indicators specified in Clause 2.4 of the Terms); a planned single-author or collective monographs / other scholarly book-type publications (with no more than four co-authors in a single work), published in Ukraine with a recommendation for publication by the Academic Council of an institution of higher education / research institution, or published in a foreign language by an international publishing house; scientific outputs disseminated via electronic resources (databases / corpora, e-archives, e-catalogs, e-libraries, e-depositories, e-dictionaries, applications, etc.) (and shall comply with the quality indicators specified in Clause 2.4 of the Terms).</i></p> | | |
| <p>2.3. Compliance with the principles of Open Science and dissemination of the Project results among the broader research community and society (in particular, participation in science promoting events, open-access publications, use of the results in the educational process, and their placement in open electronic resources, etc.).</p> | 0-5 | 0,2 |
| <p><i>Comments: Criteria and explanations for scoring the sub-criterion 2.3.</i></p> <p><i>0 points</i></p> <p><i>No information is provided on communication and dissemination of research results to the public; no references are made to respective audiences or the principles of Open Science.</i></p> <p><i>1 point</i></p> <p><i>Information on communication and dissemination of research results to the public is only briefly mentioned; the principles of Open Science are declared, but their link to the Project is not demonstrated.</i></p> <p><i>2 points</i></p> <p><i>The need for communication and dissemination of research results to the public is declared without detail; the need to report on the Project to the public is mentioned without describing the forms or purposes of such reporting; isolated references are made to respective audiences and the principles of Open Science.</i></p> | | |

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| <p>3 points</p> <p><i>General principles of communication and dissemination of research results are presented; at least one platform for interaction is proposed, but no methods for assessing engagement with respective audiences are specified; reporting to the public is mentioned in general terms without distinguishing between interim and final reports; communication channels are described only broadly (e.g., “online media” or “social networks”) without further detail; the need for accessibility of publications and/or datasets and/or other materials in libraries, databases, or similar repositories is outlined.</i></p> <p>4 points</p> <p><i>A detailed communication and dissemination plan is presented; at least one tool for interaction with respective audiences, including students and school pupils (social media, mailing lists, platforms, etc.), is proposed, along with a method for assessing the effectiveness of this interaction; elements of ongoing communication during Project implementation are developed (including engagement of institutional/university press services, publication of audiovisual materials, maintenance of blogs, etc.), as well as a plan for disseminating Project results and materials in a science popularisation, publicistic, or other accessible format; deposition of publications and/or datasets/materials in libraries, databases, or similar repositories is foreseen.</i></p> <p>5 points</p> <p><i>A comprehensive communication and dissemination strategy is presented aimed at ensuring the societal impact of the research results; tools for interaction with respective audiences, including students and school pupils (social media, mailing lists, platforms, etc.), are defined, along with methods for assessing the effectiveness of this interaction; a structured plan for ongoing communication during Project implementation is developed (including engagement of institutional/university press services, publication of audiovisual materials, maintenance of blogs, etc.) and a plan for disseminating Project results and materials in a science popularisation, publicistic, or other accessible format; deposition of</i></p> | | |
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| <i>publications and/or datasets/materials in libraries, databases, or similar repositories is foreseen.</i> | | |
| | Weighted average score | |
| <p>3. Feasibility and realism of the Project implementation plan</p> <p>Within this criterion, the justification of the Project plan and the description of its implementation stages are assessed; the specificity of planned Project performance indicators; the clarity of the description of expected results that can be verified; risk assessment; the alignment between the complexity of tasks and the timeframes for their implementation; as well as the track record and research potential of the PI.</p> | <p>From 0 to 5</p> <p>The number of points per aspect is calculated as an arithmetic mean weighted points according to the criteria</p> | 0,3 |
| <p>3.1. Justification of the Project work plan; realism of achieving the planned objectives and performance indicators; alignment between the planned stages and the complexity of the defined tasks and the timeframes allocated for their implementation.</p> | 0-5 | 0,4 |
| <p><i>Comments: Criteria for for scoring the sub-criterion 3.1</i></p> <p><i>0 points</i></p> <p><i>The work plan is absent or unstructured; the timeframes for research implementation are not defined; the research stages are not formulated or are contradictory; there is no logical sequence of planned tasks; intermediate objectives are not defined.</i></p> <p><i>1 point</i></p> <p><i>The work plan is unstructured; timeframes are defined but are unrealistic or do not take into account the complexity of the tasks; there is no logical sequence of planned tasks; intermediate objectives do not correspond to the planned indicators.</i></p> <p><i>2 points</i></p> | | |

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| <p><i>The work plan is structured; the timeframes for Project implementation are defined but most of them are unrealistic; intermediate objectives are not clearly defined and only partially correspond to the indicators; the logical sequence of planned tasks is disrupted.</i></p> <p><i>3 points</i></p> <p><i>The work plan is structured; timeframes for Project implementation are defined but some of them are unrealistic; intermediate objectives are defined but are not aligned with clear performance indicators; the logical sequence of planned tasks is partially disrupted: some tasks are not interconnected, do not correlate with the objectives, or are duplicated.</i></p> <p><i>4 points</i></p> <p><i>The work plan is structured; timeframes for Project implementation are defined and realistic; intermediate objectives are defined, but some of them are insufficiently specific or not fully aligned with performance indicators; the planned tasks are logically sequenced, interconnected, and correlated with the objectives, but there are minor gaps in the links between certain tasks.</i></p> <p><i>5 points</i></p> <p><i>The work plan is structured; timeframes for Project implementation are defined and realistic; intermediate objectives are clearly defined and aligned with precise performance indicators; the planned tasks are logically sequenced, interconnected, and correlated with the objectives; the sequence of objectives and tasks corresponds to the overall structure of the Project.</i></p> | | |
| <p>3.2. Availability and justification of the assessment of potential risks related to the Project implementation, and the provision of measures for their prevention or mitigation.</p> | <p>0-5</p> | <p>0,3</p> |
| <p><i>Comments: Criteria for for scoring the sub-criterion 3.2</i></p> <p><i>0 points</i></p> <p><i>Risks are not identified or the identified risks are not related to the Project.</i></p> <p><i>1 point</i></p> | | |

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| <p><i>Risks are identified only partially and/or in a formal manner; they are not related to the Project and are not analysed; measures for their prevention and mitigation are not proposed or are ineffective/unrealistic.</i></p> <p><i>2 points</i></p> <p><i>Main risks are identified, but their impact on the Project implementation timeline, budget, or quality of expected results is not analysed; the assessment of the identified risks is incomplete or insufficiently justified; measures for their prevention and mitigation are only briefly mentioned and are ineffective/unrealistic.</i></p> <p><i>3 points</i></p> <p><i>Main risks are identified, and their impact on the Project implementation timeline, budget, or quality of expected results is partially analysed; measures for their prevention and mitigation are declared and may be effective/realistic.</i></p> <p><i>4 points</i></p> <p><i>Main risks are identified; their impact on the Project implementation timeline, budget, or quality of expected results is analysed; measures for their prevention and mitigation are proposed and are generally effective/realistic.</i></p> <p><i>5 points</i></p> <p><i>Main risks are identified; their impact on the Project implementation timeline, budget, or quality of expected results is analysed in detail; measures for their prevention and mitigation are proposed and are effective/realistic; alternative scenarios for critical risks and mechanisms for their monitoring are provided.</i></p> | | |
| <p>3.3. Research track record of the PI, including publication and project activity, starting from 01 January 2021.</p> <p><i>Note: A career break in research caused by service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine or other security structures, medical treatment, pregnancy, parental leave, or care for a sick relative is automatically added to the specified period. Information on such a break shall be indicated in the curriculum vitae (CV) and confirmed by supporting documents (as an annex to the CV).</i></p> | 0-5 | 0,3 |

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| <p><i>Comments: Evaluation criteria for sub-criterion 3.3</i></p> <p><i>0 points</i></p> <p><i>During the specified period, the PI has no publications or other research outputs demonstrating active research activity; there is no experience of leading or participating in research projects (individual or collaborative) funded on a competitive basis.</i></p> <p><i>1 point</i></p> <p><i>During the specified period, the PI has only isolated publications in non-peer-reviewed and/or predatory journals, indicating extremely limited research activity; there is no experience of leading or participating in research projects (individual or collaborative) funded on a competitive basis.</i></p> <p><i>2 points</i></p> <p><i>During the specified period, the PI has several non-systematic publications in peer-reviewed Ukrainian Category B journals, indicating limited research activity; there is no experience of leading or participating in research projects (individual or collaborative) funded on a competitive basis.</i></p> <p><i>3 points</i></p> <p><i>During the specified period, the PI has publication(s) in peer-reviewed Ukrainian Category B journals and at least 3 publications in journals indexed in Scopus and/or the Web of Science Core Collection; possible experience of leading or participating in research projects (individual or collaborative) funded on a competitive basis.</i></p> <p><i>4 points (for <u>Mathematical, Technical, Natural, Biological, Agricultural, and Medical Sciences</u>)</i></p> <p><i>During the specified period, the PI has at least 5 (five) publications in journals indexed in Scopus (Q1–Q4) and/or the Web of Science Core Collection; possible experience of leading or participating in research projects (individual or collaborative) funded on a competitive basis.</i></p> <p><i>4 points (for <u>Social Sciences and Humanities</u>)</i></p> <p><i>During the specified period, the PI has publications in peer-reviewed Ukrainian Category B journals; at least 4 (four) publications in journals indexed in Scopus (Q1–Q4) and/or the Web of Science Core Collection and/or is the author of a</i></p> | | |
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| <p><i>single-author monograph or another book-form research publication published in Ukraine with a recommendation for publication by the Academic Council of an institution of higher education/research institution or published in a foreign language in a foreign publishing house and/or is the author/co-author of a research product on an electronic resource (databases / corpora, e-archives, e-catalogs, e-libraries, e-depositories, e-dictionaries, applications); possible experience of leading or participating in research projects (individual or collaborative) funded on a competitive basis.</i></p> <p><i>5 points (for <u>Mathematical, Technical, Natural, Biological, Agricultural, and Medical Sciences</u>)</i></p> <p><i>During the specified period, the PI has at least 5 (five) publications in journals indexed in Scopus (Q1–Q2) and/or the Web of Science Core Collection; holds patent(s) for an invention that has passed qualification examination and was filed after 1 January 2016; has experience of leading or participating in research projects (individual or collaborative) funded on a competitive basis.</i></p> <p><i>5 points (for <u>Social Sciences and Humanities</u>)</i></p> <p><i>During the specified period, the PI has publications in peer-reviewed Ukrainian Category B journals; at least 4 (four) publications in journals indexed in Scopus (Q1–Q4) and/or the Web of Science Core Collection; is the author of a single-author monograph or another book-form research publication, or a co-author of a collective monograph (or another collective book-form research publication, with no more than 4 co-authors in total), published in Ukraine with a recommendation for publication by the Academic Council of an institution of higher education/research institution and/or in a foreign language in a foreign publishing house; and/or is the author/co-author of a research product on an electronic resource (databases/corpora, e-archives, e-catalogues, e-libraries, e-repositories, e-dictionaries, applications); has experience of leading or participating in research projects (individual or collaborative) funded on a competitive basis.</i></p> | | |
| | Weighted average score | |

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| | Overall project score: weighted arithmetic mean of scores for each aspect, multiplied by 20 | |
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9.4. Algorithm for generating the final numerical assessment of applications. For each Project, the indicator R of discrepancy between the scores S_1 , S_2 , and S_3 assigned by three reviewers is calculated:

$$R = SDS \cdot 100\%$$

where S is the arithmetic mean of the grades assigned, i.e.

$$S = \frac{S_1 + S_2 + S_3}{3}$$

SD - standard discrepancy:

$$SD = \sqrt{\frac{S_1 - S}{3} + \frac{S_2 - S}{3} + \frac{S_3 - S}{3}}$$

9.5. If the indicator R of discrepancy does not exceed the critical value of 15%, the final numerical score of the application is determined as the arithmetic mean S of the reviewers' scores.

9.6. If the discrepancy exceeds the critical value of 10%, then:

- a) Each panel member ($j=1, \dots, N$, where N is the number of panel members) determines the degree of validity k of each review S_i , assigning a score from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), for $i = 1, \dots, 3$;
- b) the final numerical score of the application is calculated as a weighted average of the reviews:

$$S = S_1\beta_1 + S_2\beta_2 + S_3\beta_3$$

where

$$\beta_i = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^N k_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^N k_{ij}}, \quad i = 1, 2, 3.$$

X. INFORMATION ON THE METHODS FOR SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CALL AND METHODS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF AN APPLICATION BY AN APPLICANT BEFORE THE DEADLINE FOR ITS SUBMISSION

Proposals and documents required for participation in the Call shall be submitted by the PI exclusively in electronic form in Ukrainian and English in accordance with the requirements set out in these Terms, with a mandatory confirmation of the Project author's consent to its implementation, via the official website of the

Foundation (<https://grants.nrfu.org.ua>) using the Automated System ‘NRFU Call for Projects’.

In order to submit an Application, the applicant shall complete prior registration on the official website of the NRFU via the Automated System ‘NRFU Call for Projects’.

Identification of an individual submitting the Application shall be carried out during registration using a qualified electronic signature (QES).

The Call applicant has the right to withdraw the Application before the deadline for its submission via their personal account in the Automated System ‘NRFU Call for Projects’.

XI. INFORMATION ON THE PROCEDURE FOR GRANT SUPPORT

After the Foundation adopts a decision to award a grant, an Agreement shall be concluded between the Foundation and the legal entity that won the Call. The Agreement shall define all necessary conditions for the implementation of the Project, including provisions regarding the responsibility of the Grantee and the application of sanctions (restrictions) in case of failure or untimely fulfillment of its obligations.

The period for concluding the Agreement shall generally not exceed 30 calendar days from the date the Foundation sends the Call winner and the Legal Entity a proposal to conclude the Agreement. If, within the specified period, the Agreement is not concluded due to the fault of the Legal Entity and/or the PI, it shall be deemed that the Legal Entity and the PI have withdrawn from further implementation of the Project. The Foundation may apply restrictive measures to persons who refuse to conclude the Agreement, including restrictions on their further participation in the calls of the Foundation.

Funding of Projects shall be carried out through stage-by-stage transfers of funds by the Foundation to the Legal Entity in accordance with the Agreement, Cost estimate of the Project, Calendar Plan for research (developments) (hereinafter – Calendar Plan) and the Financing Schedule for the implementation of the research (developments), within the limits of the actual budget funds received by the Grantor.

The Legal Entity shall transfer the grant funds to the Grantee’s bank account on a monthly basis in equal installments, after deduction of taxes and fees, taking into account the actual funding received from the Grantor.

Unused and/or saved funds during each stage of the Project implementation shall be returned to the Foundation’s registration account within **three working days** after the Scientific Council of the Foundation approves the financial reports on the

use of budget funds for the respective year, but no later than **five working days** before the end of the budget period in which the Agreement was concluded.

All costs for each stage of the Project implementation shall be carried out before the completion of the respective stage of the Project implementation.

XII. ANNEXES

1. Application form for grant support ([link](#)).
2. Guidelines for filling out the Application ([download](#))
3. Template form of the Grant Agreement, annexes, and form of financial reporting ([download](#)).