

ERC Mentoring Initiative Regulations

1. Definitions

Agency: one of the research funding agencies based in Poland: National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), National Science Centre (NCN), Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), and Foundation for Polish Science (FNP)

Applicant: a person applying to the ERC Mentoring Initiative

DKPK: National Contact Point Department at NCBR, the coordinator of the Initiative

ERC: European Research Council

Initiative: ERC Mentoring Initiative

Mentor: an expert providing support to a Participant in preparing an ERC grant application, selected from the ERC mentor database, which includes ERC grantees and former ERC panel members

Participant: a person qualified to participate in the Initiative

2. Programme Objective

To support researchers who are planning to apply for an ERC grant with Polish host institutions.

The Initiative in Poland is facilitated by four research funding Agencies: National Centre for Research and Development, National Science Centre, Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, and the Foundation for Polish Science.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible, an Applicant needs to meet all of the following criteria:

- 3.1** be eligible for one of the ERC grants: Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant;
- 3.2** intend to apply for an ERC grant in the current or following year;
- 3.3** be a Principal Investigator or a fellow* implementing a project funded by one of the Agencies under one of the programmes listed in the table below:

* Principal Investigators and fellows of NAWA programmes listed in the table are eligible to participate in the Initiative after the completion of the grant as well.

Funding Agency	Programmes	Applicant
NCBR	LIDER	Principal Investigator (PI)
FNP	Team	Principal Investigator (PI)
	Team Tech (incl. Core Facility)	
	First Team	
	Homing	
	Powroty	

	Team-Net	PIs and team leaders accepted by FNP
	MAB	
NCN	National and international programmes announced or funded by the NCN	Principal Investigator (PI) or leader of the Polish team
NAWA	Polskie Powroty	Principal Investigator (PI)
	NAWA Chair	
	Bekker NAWA	Fellow
	Ulam NAWA	

4. Re-application

Re-application is possible after providing proof of submission of an ERC proposal that has passed to step 2 of the evaluation within a given call.

5. Application Process

The recruitment to the Initiative is continuous throughout each year. Applications are submitted via an online form available at the [website of the Initiative](#).

- 5.1** The Applicant must indicate which grant (from the list above) they are implementing.
- 5.2** Upon request from DKPK, the Agencies will verify the eligibility of the Applicant.
- 5.3** If the submitted form is incomplete, DKPK will contact the Applicant directly. If the form is not completed within 5 working days, the application cannot be processed further.
- 5.4** If the Applicant meets the eligibility criteria, DKPK will initiate the mentoring process by assigning a Mentor from the ERC database. The assignment will be based on the ERC panel to which the Applicant plans to submit their proposal.

6. The Scope of Support

The Mentoring may take place offline or online and includes the analysis and evaluation of the Participant's project, the provision of scientific and formal guidance on how to improve the ERC grant application, as well as recommendations for further action in case of significant deficiencies. The scope of the mentoring should be agreed between the Participant and the Mentor.

7. Mentor's Fee Payment

- 7.1** The Mentor's fee is €500 gross (lump sum) for a single mentoring service, including up to 16 hours of work.
- 7.2** The host institution implementing the NCBR, FNP or NCN project signs the agreement** with the Mentor. In case of NAWA programmes, the agreement is signed directly between the Mentor and NAWA.
** The agreement is drawn up based on the host institution's standard template.
- 7.3** The remuneration mentioned in section 7.1 is financed from the budget of the implemented projects funded by the respective Agencies (NCBR, FNP or NCN). In the case of NAWA, the remuneration for the Mentor is covered by the NAWA's budget.
- 7.4** Remuneration is paid in accordance with the signed agreement and should be made within 60 working days from the mentoring start date specified in the agreement.

7.5 At the end of the mentoring, the Participant is required to complete a questionnaire evaluating their cooperation with the Mentor.

8. Communication and Contact

8.1 General inquiries should be directed to DKPK via email: erc-mi@ncbr.gov.pl

8.2 Inquiries about specific funding programs (e.g. eligibility, cost categories within a project) should be directed to respective agency (contact details available on the Initiative website).