



# NCN – national opportunities

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NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE



## NCN: GENERAL INFORMATION

- ❑ **National Science Centre (NCN)** is a government agency, set up in 2011 to support basic research in Poland
- ❑ **Our goal:**  
improve the quality of research in Poland by means of a competition-based system of funding opportunities, promote the growing importance of Polish research on the international arena



# NCN PANELS IN 3 RESEARCH DOMAINS



## HS – Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

**HS1** Fundamental questions of human existence and the nature of reality

**HS2** Culture and cultural production

**HS3** The study of the human past

**HS4** Individuals, institutions, markets

**HS5** Norms and governance

**HS6** Human nature and human society



## NZ – Life Sciences

**NZ1** Molecular biology, structural biology, biotechnology

**NZ2** Genetics, genomics

**NZ3** Cellular and developmental biology

**NZ4** Biology of tissues, organs and organisms


**NZ5** Human and animal noninfectious diseases

**NZ6** Human and animal immunology and infection

**NZ7** Diagnostic tools, therapies and public health

**NZ8** Evolutionary and environmental biology

**NZ9** Fundamentals of applied life sciences and biotechnology



## ST – Physical Sciences and Engineering

**ST1** Mathematics

**ST2** Fundamental

constituents of matter

**ST3** Condensed matter

physics

**ST4** Chemistry

**ST5** Materials

**ST6** Computer science and informatics

**ST7** Systems and communication engineering

**ST8** Production and processes engineering

**ST9** Astronomy and space science

**ST10** Earth sciences



# NCN NATIONAL CALLS

## **PRELUDIUM**

for pre-doctoral candidates

## **SONATINA**

for researches with PhD degree awarded within 3 years before submitting the proposal

## **SONATA**

for researches with PhD degree awarded within 2 to 7 years before submitting the proposal

## **"SONATA BIS**

for researches with PhD degree awarded within 5 to 12 years before submitting the proposal

## **MAESTRO**

for advanced researchers wishing to conduct pioneering research

## **TANGO**

implementation of deliverables achieved under basic research

## **OPUS**

research projects, including projects carried out under international cooperation and funding of research equipment

## **PRELUDIUM BIS**

PhD supervisor, research projects conducted by PhD students as part of their doctoral dissertations



## **POLONEZ BIS**

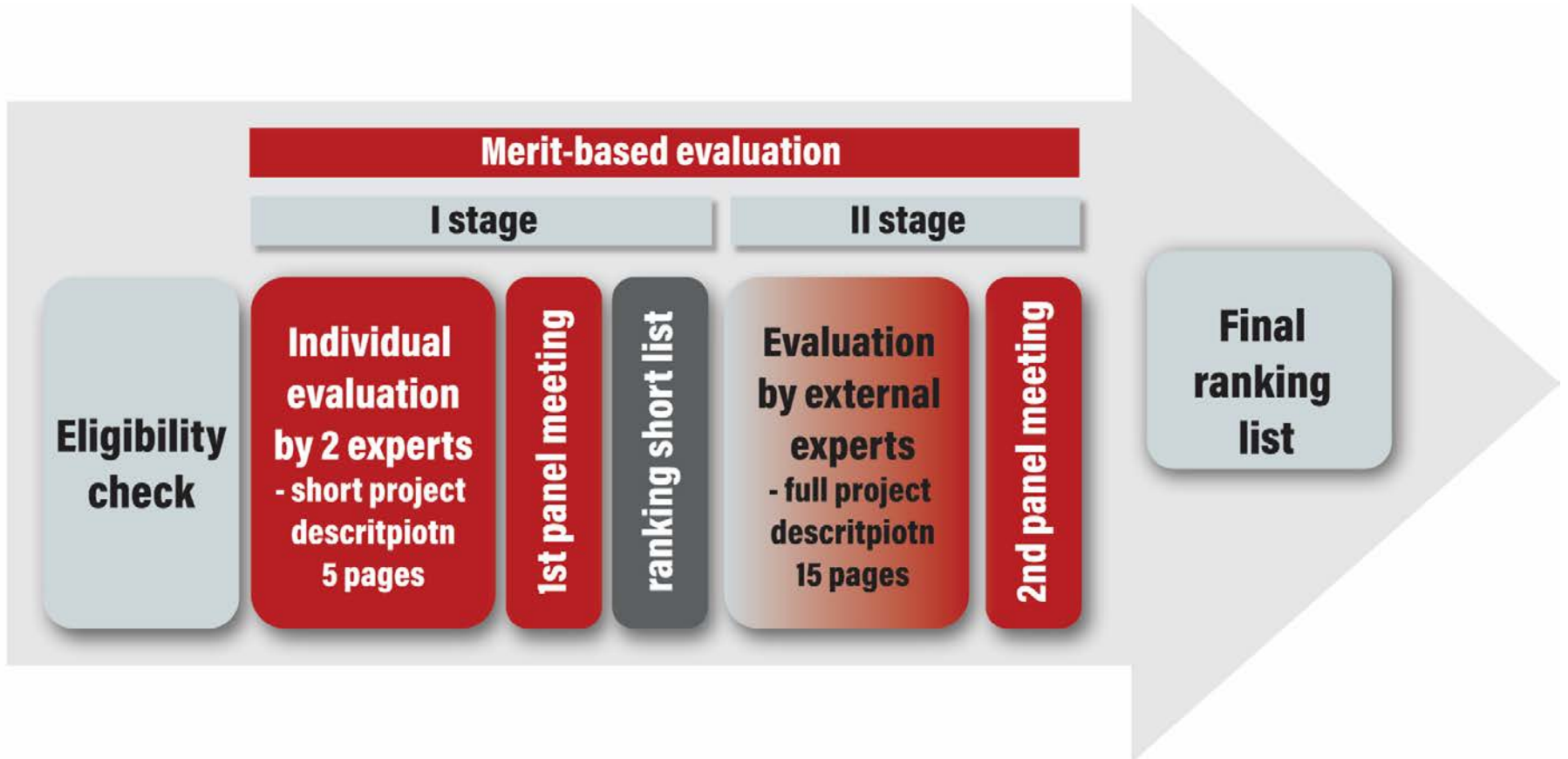
fellowship for experienced researchers, co-funded by the European Commission and the NCN

## **MINIATURA**

individual research activities aimed at conducting basic research

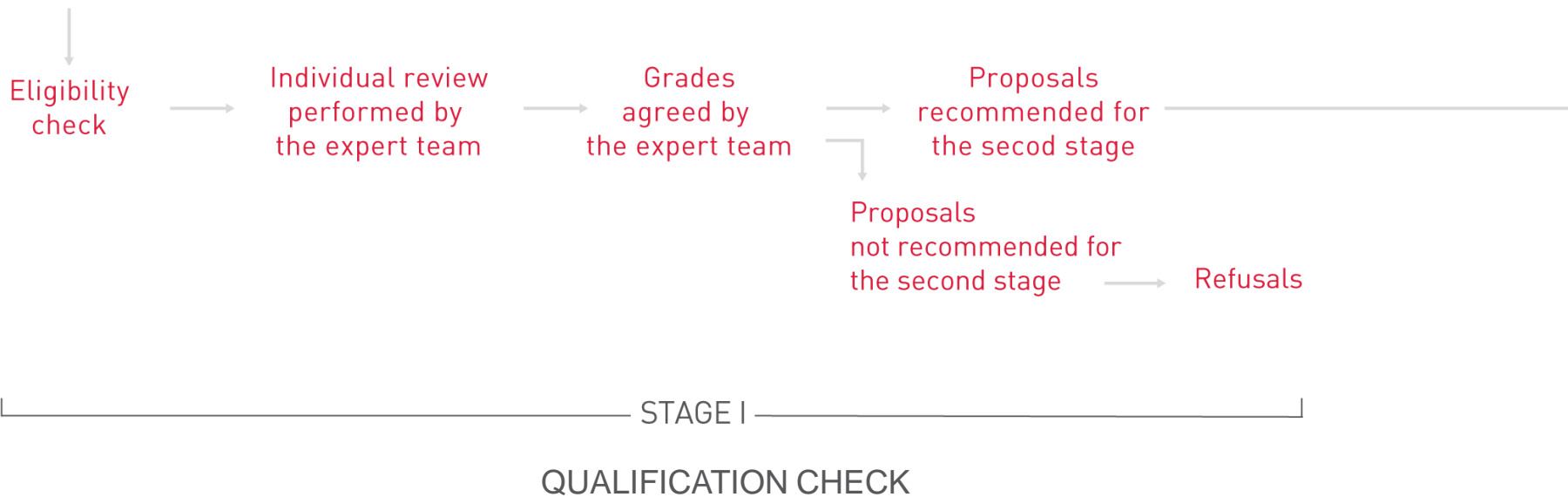


# TWO-STAGE SINGLE BLIND PEER REVIEW-PROCESS



# 1st STAGE:

- Each proposal is evaluated by two independent Experts
- Experts do not know the composition of the Expert Team before Panel meeting, except for the Chair





# 2nd STAGE

- ❑ Each proposal is evaluated by at least two External Reviewers
- ❑ Confidential identity of External Reviewers

  
 SONATINA, SONATA BIS,  
 MAESTRO, POLONEZ BIS

Evaluation by external experts and interview with the principal investigator

  
 OPUS, PRELUDIUM,  
 PRELUDIUM BIS, SONATA

Evaluation by external experts



Grades agreed by the expert team

Projects recommended for funding

Announcement of results

Proposals not recommended for funding

Refusals

STAGE II

SPECIALIST EVALUATION





# REMOTE evaluation based on the structured REVIEW FORM

age:

5 pages





## Evaluation based on the structured REVIEW FORM

	<p>h (scientific relevance, importance,</p> <p>on the research field(s) and for high other research outputs</p> <p>ethodology, the risk management , the structure of the research team, , international cooperation (if any),</p>
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## ASSESSMENT OF THE BUDGET

- If unjustified, not recommended to the 2nd stage
- No negotiation and modification
- Budget is either accepted or the proposal is rejected because the costs are not justified with regards to the subject and scope of the research.



## ASSESSMENT OF THE PI'S TRACK RECORD

- ❑ scientific achievements of PI are evaluated in a comparison to other applicants based on the quality of conducted research and not on the bibliometric indicators.
- ❑ **SAN FRANCISCO DECLARATION ON RESEARCH ASSESSMENT (DORA)**

NCN has signed **DORA** agreement (<https://sfdora.org/read/>).

Research quality evaluation should rely on merit-based criteria rather than quantitative metrics.

Researchers should be judged primarily on the originality of their research and its impact on the development of the discipline, rather than on metrics such as, e.g. the Impact Factor, H-index



# EXTERNAL REVIEWER ASSESMENT

## EXTERNAL REVIEWER ASSESMENT

- the same criteria as for Panel Experts
- detailed 15-page project description

## PANEL EXPERT

- read the External Reviewers opinion
- at least two external reviews

## 2nd PANEL SESSION

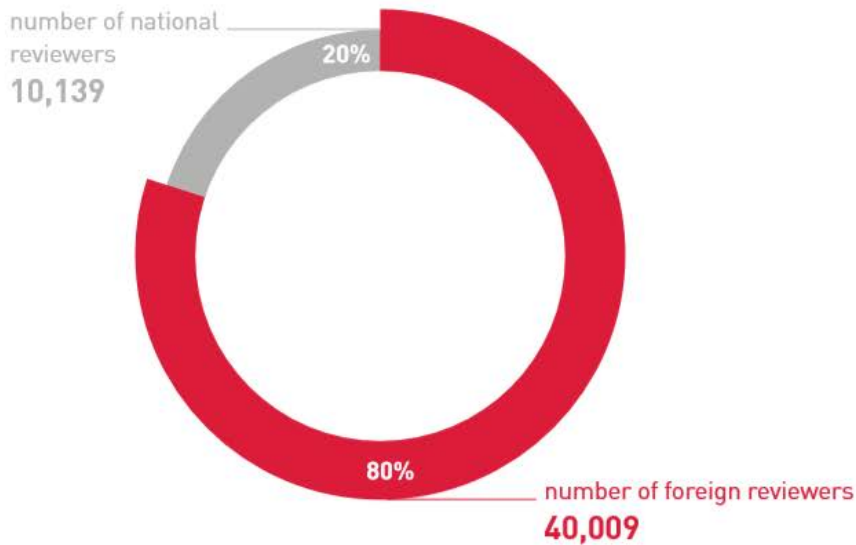
- discussion of Expert Team based on the External Reviewers opinion and
- recommendation for funding

## Experts should rely on:

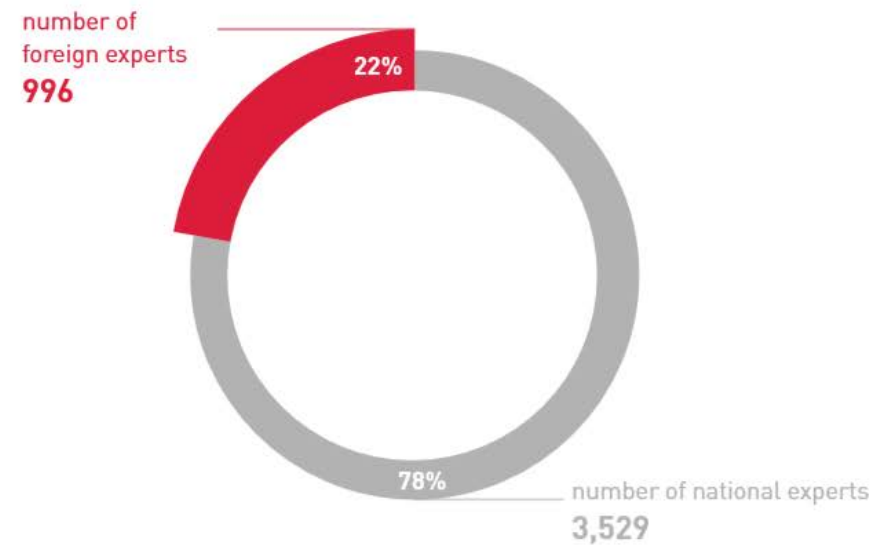
- best knowledge
- world standards
- Today most of NCN Panel Experts and External Reviewers are foreigners.

# Proportion of foreign experts and reviewers in the proposal evaluation process 2011-2020

Proportion of foreign reviewers in proposal evaluation process



Proportion of foreign experts in proposal evaluation process



- ❑ In 2020 reviews prepared by international experts represented **95%** of all external reviews.
- ❑ It helps to avoid potential conflicts of interest and improve standards of evaluation up to international level.

**More information available at:**

**[www.ncn.gov.pl](http://www.ncn.gov.pl)**

**Thank you for your attention!**

