

POLLUX PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

2012 CALL

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Further call information, forms and guidelines are available on the FNR and NCBR webpages:

www.fnr.lu/POLLUX and www.ncbir.pl/POLLUX.

1. International Collaboration between Luxembourg and Poland

The service sector plays a progressively more important role in the economy. It is generally acknowledged that technology change and innovation are major drivers of economic growth and lie at the very heart of the competitive process.

Transforming knowledge into economically viable products, processes or services is quite complex. The innovation process combines several steps, such as analysis of opportunities and threats, research and development, implementation and production, marketing and services. All these activities are closely interwoven and interdependent.

The public research system in Luxembourg is very new when compared to international standards. The creation of new institutions, such as the University of Luxembourg, and new infrastructures, such as the “City of Sciences”, illustrate the rapid changes facing the research landscape.

Despite major investments, a small country like Luxembourg only has very limited resources for research when compared to the global spending. It is therefore imperative that the “National Research Fund” (FNR) focuses its budget increases on a restricted number of promising research areas as “Innovation in Services” as well as on joining forces with other major players on the European market.

The science sector in Poland has undergone major systemic changes recently. Two funding agencies have been set up: the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) – responsible for funding applied research and the National Science Centre – responsible for funding basic research. The new system emphasises to a greater extent pro-quality financing, using excellence and innovative approach as its main criteria of projects' selection.

The National Centre for Research and Development focuses its activity on strategic programmes for the development of a domestic economy and those targeted to sectors with great potential of innovative solutions brought about through cutting-edge research. The agency also keeps on developing its cooperation with other international partners by setting up programmes dedicated to selected sectors of crucial importance for the European economy.

Therefore, in order to optimise the visibility of Luxembourg and Poland as attractive sites for research activities within Europe, the NCBR and the FNR have reinforced collaboration within the “Innovation in Services” Sector. The chief role of this research sector is to provide valuable knowledge and guidance in relation to the aspects that are important for both country's economy, society and its environment. The objective of the FNR and the NCBR is thus threefold: to invest in knowledge, human resources and in organizations.

2. Objective of the POLLUX “Innovation in Services” Programme

In view of the increasing importance of international cooperation in research, development and innovation, the NCBR and the FNR aim to facilitate the collaboration between Polish and Luxembourgish researchers in the field of “Innovation in Services”. Therefore, the FNR and the NCBR will launch joint pilot calls for project proposals in 2012 and 2013. Based on the results of these joint pilot calls, the NCBR and the FNR will evaluate the potential of future joint calls, possibly extending to other research fields.

The current collaboration will allow for:

- joint pilot calls in the field of “Innovation in Services”,
- a joint evaluation process based on international best practice,
- an increasing impact of Polish and Luxembourgish research activities.

2.1. Joint Pilots Calls for Research Proposals

The concept of the “Innovation in Services” Programme is built on the following pillars:

- The programme covers a set of selected research sub-domains retained by the FNR and the NCBR within the “Innovation in Services” domain. This set may be adapted over the years if deemed necessary whilst duly taking into account the sustainability of these research activities;
- It provides calls for the project proposals for 2012 and 2013; the aim of the FNR and the NCBR is to provide financial support for applied research projects;
- There is a common evaluation procedure;
- The monitoring and the final evaluation of the projects and the programme will be streamlined to avoid unnecessary bureaucratic burdening of the stakeholders involved.

The two calls foreseen so far in the framework of this collaboration programme cover the following overall budgets.

Year	FNR Budgets earmarked (in M€)	NCBR Budgets earmarked (in M€)
2012	1	1
2013	1 (provisional)	1 (provisional)

3. Innovation in Services Research Priority

Within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement signed between the FNR and the NCBR on 8 of November 2011 there was a joint decision on “Innovation in Services” as research priority, with four research sub-priorities that will be opened for financial support within the 2012 and 2013 calls.

3.1. Information Security and Trust Management

Research in this domain should be steered towards the development of IT-based secure applications considering the interdisciplinary character of growth sector. Additionally, secure services should not only be developed for businesses but also for citizens, e.g. e-government and e-health applications.

3.2. Business Service Design

Research should contribute to the design and engineering of flexible and efficient business services strategies and innovative business models through business services (including deployment, operation and monitoring).

Research may cover many different applications and e-services of different levels of granularity: business related e-services and public e-services (e-government, e-administration, e-health and e-learning).

Research in Business Service Design and innovation is based on an interdisciplinary approach guaranteeing the alignment of technologies, business processes and strategies as well as human skills.

3.3. Development and Performance of the Financial Systems

Research should focus on specific aspects of development and improving performance, with the aim to optimise all kinds of financial sub-systems within the finance industry. In particular, research should help to cope with the most important challenges and opportunities faced by the banking market at the moment: the quality of services provided to the client, the development of new products and services and the managing of distribution channels. Research on the regulatory framework will play an important part for innovation in the sector. Research aiming at optimising the fiscal and regulatory environment will play an important part in ensuring the development of new products and business lines as well as in assuring the overall competitiveness of the financial sector as a whole.

3.4. High-performance Telecommunication Networks

Research should include the distribution and personalisation of satellite signals as well as the study of intelligent, self-organised and dynamic networks for improving seamless applications/hand-over. IP communications research could involve the development of IP-based protocols, platforms and technologies for next generation user interfaces, services and applications for enterprise communications.

4. Time Schedule for the 2012 PolLux Call

27 February	Launch of the PolLux Call
01 June 14:00 (CET)	Deadline for the submission of proposals
End of October	Funding decision
November	Earliest start of the project
May of the following year	Latest start of the project

The time schedule for the 2013 PolLux call will be determined in January 2013.

General Rules

- The proposal must include at least one partner eligible at FNR and one partner eligible at the NCBR;
- The eligibility of project partners is defined by the respective national rules:
 - For the FNR: public institutions, Luxembourg administrations and public services authorised to undertake research or technology transfer activities in their respective fields;
 - For the NCBR: universities, research institutes, small and medium-sized companies¹.
- For each proposal, project partners designate a '**Principal Investigator**'² (PI) who is the project leader responsible for submitting the proposal on their behalf.
- Projects selected under the POLLUX programme have a lifespan of **two to three years**.

The **application procedure** consists of one mandatory stage:

1. **Proposals** must be submitted by the **PI** no later than 14:00 (CET) before the relevant submission deadline in electronic format to the FNR online submission system <https://grants.fnr.lu>

All applications have to be submitted in English. For the Polish partners the specific administrative attachments have to be submitted also in Polish.

Detailed explanation about the **application process** is described in a separate document called "POLLUX Application Guidelines" available under www.fnr.lu/POLLUX and www.ncbir.pl/POLLUX.

It is advised that the partners contact their respective funding agencies before submitting their proposals in order to pre-check their eligibility.

Explanations about the **Peer Review** process and the **selection criteria** are described as well in a separate document 'POLLUX Review Guidelines' available under www.FNR.lu/POLLUX and www.ncbir.pl/POLLUX.

¹ Detailed information on types of eligible institutions is available in "Program PolLux – Zasady udziału podmiotów polskich.." on the NCBR's webpage.

² The PI is the researcher proposing the project idea and leading the project on a 'daily basis'.

The **funding decision** will be communicated to the applicants by end of October, same year as the application. Upon request, the applicant may receive the full anonymised written evaluations³.

Further call information and guidelines may be downloaded from the FNR and NCBR webpages: www.ncbir.pl/POLLUX and www.fnr.lu/POLLUX.

³ Please note that the comments by the evaluators may not necessarily be convergent. Differences of opinion about the merits of a proposal happen and are legitimate. Furthermore the FNR and NCBIR may take a position that is different from what could be inferred from the comments of the different evaluations for duly justified reasons.