

Summary of the first call for proposals of the Baltic Research Programme

APPLICATIONS

The first call for proposals for the Baltic Research Programme received a total of 130 applications, of which **128 applications were accepted and 7 grants were awarded.**

Table 1. Number of evaluated proposals and received grants per institution

| Institution | Number of proposals | Applied funding | Number of grants | Awarded funding |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| University of Tartu (UT) | 60 | 53 198 498,73 | 5 | 4 341 723,00 |
| TalTech | 41 | 35 556 295,79 | 2 | 1 658 277,00 |
| Estonian University of Life Sciences | 8 | 6 999 910,31 | | |
| Tallinn University | 8 | 7 663 867,07 | | |
| National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics | 3 | 2 788 000 | | |
| National Institute for Health Development | 3 | 2 775 663,83 | | |
| Competence Center of Food and Fermentation Technologies | 1 | 999 235,00 | | |
| Cybernetica AS | 1 | 997 461,25 | | |
| Estonian Literary Museum | 1 | 979 152,74 | | |
| Estonian Academy of Arts | 1 | 794 500,00 | | |
| Estonian Business School (SA Estonian Business School) | 1 | 697 862,35 | | |
| Total | 128 | 113 450 447,1 | 7 | 6 000 000,00 |

47% of the evaluated applications were from UT researchers, 32% from TalTech researchers, 6% from the Estonian University of Life Sciences, 6% from Tallinn University and the remaining 9% from other institutions. **2 grants were awarded to TalTech researchers, 5 to UT researchers.**

FUNDING

The lowest budget requested was EUR 399 375, the highest was EUR 1 000 000, the average amount requested being EUR 886 332. Due to the different project periods, the minimum amount requested per year was EUR 99 844, the highest EUR 333 333 per year and the average amount requested was EUR 254 264 per year.

As the number of applications was high and many were of a consistently high quality, the Steering Committee proposed to support more projects and to reduce the budgets of all beneficiaries equally, with 91% of the grant amount requested. **The minimum amount allocated is EUR 710 504** (minimum

amount of EUR 206 274 per year), **the highest amount is EUR 907 947** (maximum amount of EUR 260 206 per year), **the average grant amount is EUR 857 143** (average amount per year is EUR 245 181).

DURATION

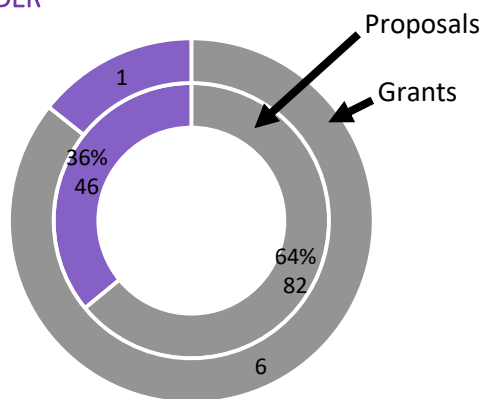
Table 2. Number of evaluated applications by duration of project

| Duration of project | Number of proposals |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 years | 47 |
| 3 years 1 months - 3 years 4 months | 8 |
| 3 years 6 months - 3 years 11 months | 13 |
| 4 years | 60 |
| Total | 128 |

It can be said that less than half of the applicants applied for support for 3 years, more than half of the applicants applied for approximately 4 years. 89 projects wanted to start in 2019, 39 projects in 2020.

One of the supported projects lasts for 3 years and six projects for 4 years.

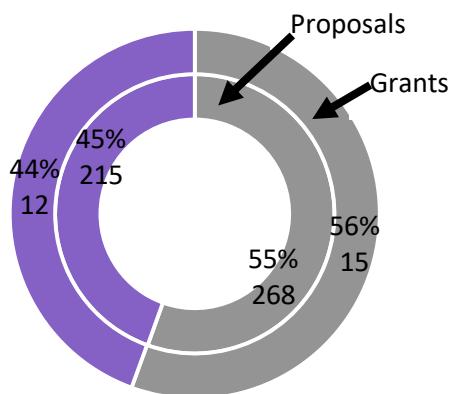
GENDER



64% of the Principal Investigators (Project Promoters) were male and 36% were female.

Among grant holders (PI's), 1 is female (15%) and 6 are male (85%).

Figure 1. Gender breakdown of principal investigators.



Of all applications, 55% of main research staff were male and 45% were female.

In the funded projects, the gender breakdown of main research staff is similar (56% male, 44% female).

Figure 2. Gender breakdown of main research staff

RESEARCH STAFF

The lowest number of involved senior research staff was 1 person and the highest number was 12, on average 3 persons per project. **In supported projects, senior research staff shall consist of a minimum of 1 person and a maximum of 6 persons.**

AGE

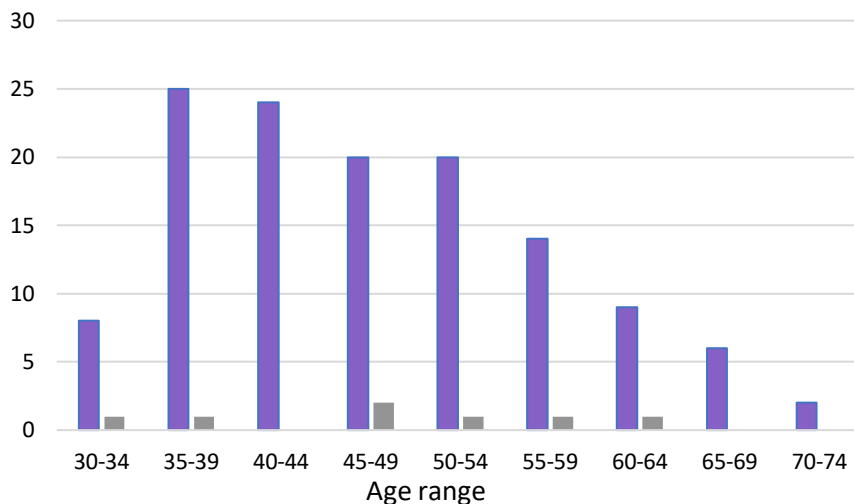


Figure 3. Age of Principal Investigators in all applications (purple) and in supported projects (grey).

Grant holders are from very different age groups.

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

In the first call, proposals were expected to address the following challenges:

- 1) Public health; translational medicine; health technologies;
- 2) Migration; social inclusion;
- 3) Regional cyber security; public security;
- 4) Environmentally friendly solutions;
- 5) Regional economic development; employment; labour market regulations and social policy;
- 6) More effective use of resources.

All the proposals were submitted as challenge-based, except one which was marked as not addressing any of the challenges. Average number of challenges submitted by the project promoters was 2. There were 57 proposals addressing one challenge and 1 proposal addressing five challenges.

The most submitted challenges were the challenge 6 (more effective use of resources – 57 proposals), challenge 4 (environmentally friendly solutions – 55 proposals) and challenge 1 (public health; translational medicine; health technologies – 53 proposals).

Among the proposals funded, 2 of them are addressing three challenges and the rest of them are addressing **two challenges**. **4** proposals referred to **challenges 4 and 6** (environmentally friendly solutions and more effective use of resources), **3** proposals referred to **challenge 5** (regional economic

development; employment; labour market regulations and social policy), 2 applications referred to **challenge 2** (migration; social inclusion), and 1 application referred to **challenge 1** (public health; translational medicine; health technologies). Thus, no project receiving funding is addressing the challenge 3 (regional cyber security; public security).

RESEARCH FIELDS

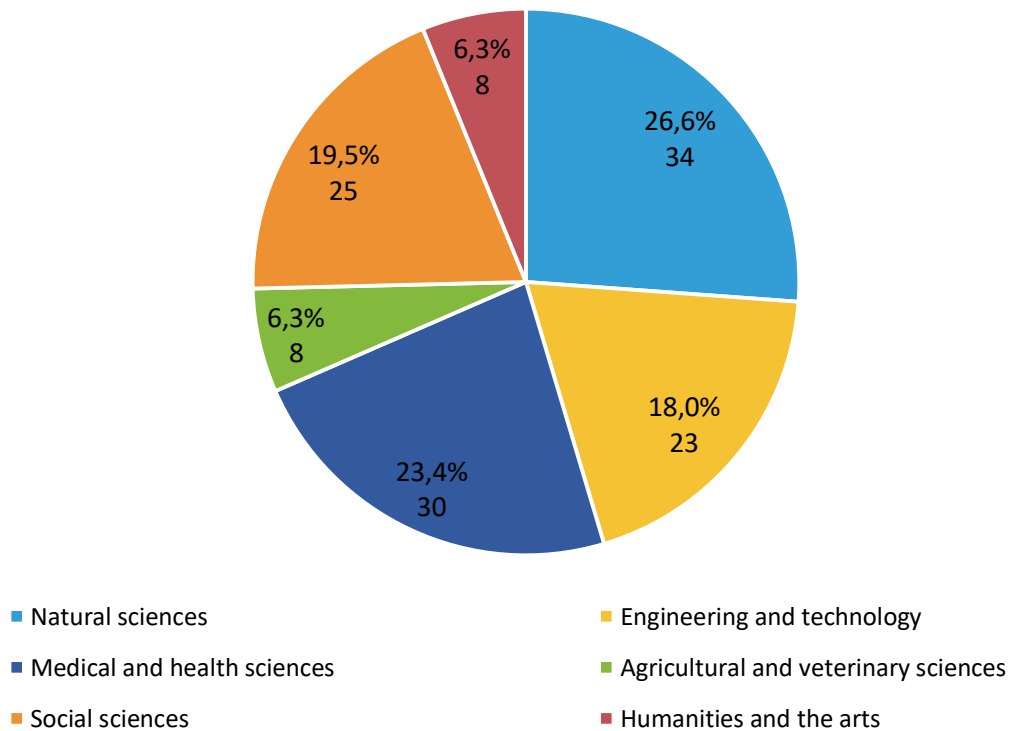


Figure 4. Division of evaluated proposals based on Frascati research fields

Proposals were invited in all areas of fundamental and applied sciences. In 54 applications, more than one Frascati research area was listed, in which case the proposal is placed in the area with the highest proportion. The 12 applications were those identified by the applicant as 50% for one and 50% for the other, for which the application is placed in the figure that was first mentioned in the application.

Funded applications cover the following research fields: 2 projects in **natural sciences**, 2 projects in **humanities and the arts**, 1 project in **medical and health sciences** and 1 project 75% in **engineering and technology**, 25% in **natural sciences** and 1 project 50% in **natural sciences** and 50% in **engineering and technology**

PARTNERS

It was mandatory to involve at least one partner from another Baltic State and at least one partner from Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. The most involved Project Partner's country was Norway (145 proposals) followed by Lithuania (109) and Latvia (109). 27 proposals had involved partners from the third countries. On average, 3 project partners were involved per 1 project. In total, 263 partner institutions were involved, and 416 names of partners were given.

The supported projects include partners from Latvia (6), Lithuania (7), Norway (7) and third countries (4).

Table 3. Number of proposals having the Project Partners from the following countries

| Project Partner's country | Number of proposals |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Norway | 145 |
| Lithuania | 107 |
| Latvia | 107 |
| Third countries | 27 |
| Estonia | 21 |
| Iceland | 12 |
| Liechtenstein | 1 |

Table 4. Most involved partner institutions

| Partner institution | Number of proposals |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| University of Latvia | 22 |
| Norwegian University of Science and Technology | 14 |
| Vilnius University | 13 |
| Kaunas University of Technology | 10 |
| Riga Technical University | 10 |
| University of Bergen | 7 |
| Lithuanian University of Health Sciences | 7 |
| University of Iceland | 7 |
| University of Oslo | 7 |
| Estonian University of Life Sciences | 6 |
| University of Stavanger | 6 |
| Vytautas Magnus University | 6 |

EVALUATION

A total of **267 remote reviewers** were used to evaluate applications, **76% (204) male** and **24% (63) female**.

The following thresholds were set for the evaluation criteria:

- criterion **1 (scientific and/or technical excellence)** had a score of **3.5** or higher
- criterion **2 (quality and efficiency of the implementation)** had a score of at least **4**
- criterion **3 (potential impact)** had a score of **3.5**
- total score of at least **11 points**

In **criterion 1**, 29 applications were below the threshold, i.e. **77% of the applications exceeded the threshold**. In **criterion 2**, 38 applications were below the threshold, i.e. **over 70% of the applications exceeded the threshold**. In **criterion 3**, 24 applications were below the threshold, i.e. **81% exceeded the threshold**. Based on total score, **94 applications exceeded the threshold (73%)**.

The Programme Committee was entitled to apply 0.5 extra points for special contribution to policy objectives or challenges and 0.5 extra points for potential added value. The PC took the opportunity to award extra points to 6 applications.

EEA GRANTS 2014-2021

BALTIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME

