

**European Union Cohesion Policy Programme for 2021–2027 under the specific aid objective 1.1.1 “Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies”, Activity 1.1.1.9 “Postdoctoral research”:**

**REGULATIONS FOR THE 1ST SELECTION ROUND OF RESEARCH APPLICATIONS**

**NON-ECONOMIC RESEARCH APPLICATIONS**

**amended on 13th September 2024**

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| **The Cabinet Regulations governing the implementation of the specific aid objective Activity:** | Cabinet Regulation No. 35 of 9 January 2024 “[European Union Cohesion Policy Programme for 2021–2027 under the specific aid objective 1.1.1 “Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies”, Activity 1.1.1.9 “Postdoctoral research” implementing regulations](https://likumi.lv/ta/id/349180)” (hereinafter – “the CM for the Activity”) |
| **Amount of funding:** | The total funding available under the measure is EUR 39,044,566.60, including EUR 33,187,881.51 from the European Regional Development Fund, EUR 4,286,331.09 from the state budget and EUR 1,570,354 from private co-financing.  The total eligible funding available for the first call for research application is €17,000,000, of which €3,400,000 is for fundamental research.  **The first call for research application supports only non-economic industrial and applied research, fundamental research applications.** |
| **Method of implementation of the call for applications:** | Open call for project applications |
| **Deadline for submission of research applications:** | **8 August 2024** to **7 October 2024 until 17:00** |
| **Research applicant:** | A scientific institution (public agency, derived public person, legal person governed by private law or a higher education institution) registered in the Register of Scientific Institutions of the Republic of Latvia that meets the definition of a research and knowledge dissemination organisation set out in Article 2(83) of Commission Regulation No 651/2014. |
| **Type of research application:** | Non-economic research application |

1. **CONDITIONS**

1.1 The total funding available under the Activity is EUR 39,044,566.60, including EUR 33,187,881.51 from the European Regional Development Fund, EUR 4,286,331.09 from the state budget and EUR 1,570,354.00 from private co-financing.

1.2 The total eligible funding available for the first call for research applications is EUR 17,000,000.

1.3 The first selection round of research applications shall only support non-economic research applications implemented by a research institution registered in the Register of Scientific Institutions of the Republic of Latvia and meeting the definition of a research and knowledge dissemination organisation set out in Article 2(83) of Commission Regulation No 651/2014 (hereinafter – “research application”).

1.4 For the first call for research applications, the funding available for the implementation of fundamental research applications is set at 20 % of the total eligible funding of EUR 17,000,000, corresponding to EUR 3,400,000.

1.5 The amount of funding planned for fundamental research in all selection rounds combined shall not exceed 20 % of the total eligible funding for research applications.

1.6 If the funding available for the first round of applications for fundamental research is not used up, it will be transferred to subsequent rounds of applications for fundamental research.

1.7 The maximum total eligible funding of a research application is EUR 191,700 and the maximum implementation period is 36 months, up to 30 June 2029. The research applicant shall ensure the sustainability of the results achieved at least one year after the end of the implementation of the research application, including the sustainability of the workplace created within the framework of the research application and the development of the research field.

1.8 The research applicant shall start the implementation of the research application no later than six months after the decision approving the research application.

1.9 The costs of a research application (non-economic) include the following items of eligible costs of the research application:

* + 1. The remuneration costs of a postdoctoral researcher (staff) are EUR 3,860 per month and do not exceed EUR 46,320 per year, including State mandatory social insurance payment debts and other social guarantees provided for in the regulatory enactments in the field of labour law and remuneration.
    2. unit cost of EUR 1000 per month, which includes:
* research costs (purchase of research materials, technology rights and outsourcing costs);
* publication costs;
* training costs
* costs of networking events (travel, conference fees and costs of participation in outreach events);
  + 1. unit cost of EUR 255 per month for the research applicant's administrative and infrastructure resources used for the implementation of the research application, including:
* stationery, office supplies and the hire or purchase of office equipment;
* rent or lease of premises, utilities and maintenance costs (including *pro rata* share of the costs of using the institution's common areas and shared resources);
* telecoms, internet costs and postage;
* information technology maintenance costs;
* the cost of remunerating the research applicant's support and management staff;
* costs which are not included in the costs referred to in Sub-paragraphs 62.1 and 62.2 of the Cabinet Regulation but are necessary to achieve the results of the research application.
  + 1. The cost of ensuring mobility and family allowance (if applicable), if the mobility is of six months or more, at the standard rate set by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships programme of the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation framework programme:
* EUR 600 per month for a postdoctoral researcher;
* EUR 660 per month family allowance.

1.9.5 A lump sum benefit of EUR 600 may be paid to cover the costs of moving to Latvia, and an additional lump sum benefit of EUR 660 if the postdoctoral researcher's family moves to Latvia, according to the standard rate set by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships programme of the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation framework programme.[[1]](#footnote-2)

1.9.6 For research applications, the maximum eligible ERDF funding shall not exceed 85 % of the total eligible funding of the research application.

1.9.7 The required co-financing of 15 % of the total eligible costs of the research application shall be provided by:

* from State budget funding – up to 10 per cent;
* from other funds available to the research organisation.

1. **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESEARCH APPLICANT AND CO-OPERATION PARTNERS** 
   1. The applicant for non-economic research is a scientific institution (public agency, derived public person, legal person governed by private law or a higher education institution) registered in the Register of Scientific Institutions of the Republic of Latvia:

2.1.1. that meets the definition of a research organization as defined in Article 2(83) of Commission Regulation No. 651/2014 (hereinafter - “scientific institution”). The compliance with the definition of a research organization is assessed according to the Methodology for determining the compliance of research and knowledge dissemination organizations (approved by the order No. 1-2e/24/229 of the Ministry of Education and Science on August 1st, 2024) (hereinafter - “Methodology for determining the compliance of research and knowledge dissemination organizations”), and

2.1.2. which establishes an employment relationship with a postdoctoral researcher whose doctorate/PhD was obtained not more than 10 years before the deadline for submission of the research application (hereinafter – “postdoctoral researcher”) and provides access to infrastructure and human resources for the implementation of the research required under the research application.

2.2. The research application may be carried out individually or in partnership with a foreign or Latvian scientific institution, university or business (hereinafter – “co-operation partner”), which hosts the postdoctoral researcher and provides access to infrastructure or human resources. The co-operation partner may benefit from economic advantages and intellectual property rights in proportion to each co-operation partner's contribution to the research application.

2.3. Where the research application is implemented in partnership with a co-operation partner, the research applicant and the co-operation partner shall, after approval of the research application, conclude a cooperation agreement setting out the conditions for substantive, technical and financial cooperation, the rights, obligations and responsibilities of the parties, as well as the rights to the results of the research application (including intellectual property rights) in proportion to the contribution of each co-operation partner to the implementation of the research application, and access to the infrastructure and other resources of the co-operation partner for the research required for the implementation of the research application.

2.4. The following requirements apply to the research applicant and the co-operation partner (if it is a merchant and benefits from the collaboration):

2.4.1. the recovery order mentioned in point (a) of paragraph 4 of Article 1 of Commission Regulation No. 651/2014 does not apply to those funds and is assessed at the level of the corporate group, and the recovery order applies to support schemes from which individual support payments to the company subject to an outstanding recovery order, in accordance with a previous European Commission decision declaring the support illegal and incompatible with the internal market, are not specifically excluded, except for support schemes for compensating losses caused by individual natural disasters;

2.4.2. they are not considered to be in financial difficulty according to point 2.7 of the regulations, and a declaration of compliance with Article 2(18)(c) of Commission Regulation No. 651/2014 is submitted, which is assessed at the group level (not applicable if the support is provided under European Commission Regulation (EU) No. 2023/2831 of December 13th , 2023, on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid, and for which there are no such situations).

2.4.2.1. in the case of a capital company (excluding SMEs which have been in existence for less than three years or, for the purposes of clarifying eligibility for risk finance support, those SMEs within seven years of their first commercial sale which qualify for risk finance investments following an eligibility check by the appointed financial intermediary), more than half of its subscribed capital has been lost due to accumulated losses. This is the case if the deduction of accumulated losses from reserves (and all other items generally considered as part of the company's equity) results in a negative result exceeding half of the subscribed capital. For the purposes of this provision, “capital company” means, in particular, the types of companies referred to in Annex I to Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and “capital” includes, where applicable, share premium;

2.4.2.2.in the case of a company in which at least some of the members have unlimited liability for the company's debts (except SMEs which have been in existence for less than three years or, in the case of SMEs which have been in existence for seven years from their first commercial sale and which qualify for risk finance investments after an eligibility check by the designated financial intermediary), more than half of the capital shown in the company's accounts has been lost as a result of accumulated losses. For the purposes of this provision, a “company” in which at least some of the members have unlimited liability for the debts of the company means in particular the types of company referred to in Annex II to Directive 2013/34/EU;

2.4.2.3.the undertaking is the subject of collective insolvency proceedings, or meets the criteria laid down by its national law for being the subject of collective insolvency proceedings at the request of its creditors, and a certificate is provided;

2.4.2.4. where the undertaking has received rescue aid and has not yet reimbursed the loan or terminated the guarantee, or has received restructuring aid and is still subject to a restructuring plan;

2.4.2.5. in the case of an undertaking that is not an SME, were, for the past two years:

* + - * the undertaking's book debt to equity ratio has been greater than 7,5;
      * the undertaking's EBITDA interest coverage ratio has been below 1,0;

2.4.3 where the research applicant carries out both economic and non-economic activities, it shall separate the types of activities and their costs, funding and revenues in such a way as to effectively prevent cross-subsidisation of economic activities;

2.4.4 the research applicant is not subject to the exclusion rules laid down in Article 22 of the Law on the Management of the European Union Funds for the programming period 2021–2027.

1. **SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES AND COSTS**

3.1 Within the framework of a research application, the activities defined in Paragraph 45 of the Cabinet Regulation of the Activity are supported and only research applications that contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Latvian Smart Specialisation Strategy or to the development of specialisation areas, including interdisciplinary research applications corresponding to at least one of the defined Latvian Smart Specialisation areas, are supported:

3.1 A knowledge-intensive bioeconomy;

3.2 Biomedicine, medical technologies, bio-pharmacy and biotechnologies;

3.3 Smart materials, technology and engineering systems;

3.4 Smart energy and mobility;

3.5 Information and communication technologies.

4. The research application shall plan the costs in accordance with paragraphs 56, 57, 61, 62, 63, 66, 67, 68 and 70 of the Cabinet Regulation for the Activity.

1. **PROCEDURE FOR THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE PROJECT APPLICATION**

4.1 A research application consists of a research application form to be filled in electronically and submitted via the Postdoc information system, and its annexes:

* + 1. Annex 1 “Statement by the research applicant” (in accordance with the form in Annex 1 to the selection regulations “Methodology for completing a research application”);
    2. Annex 2 “Copy of the postdoctoral researcher's doctorate/PhD diploma *(obtained no more than 10 years before the deadline for submission of the research application)*';
    3. Annex 3 “Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the postdoctoral researcher (to be prepared in English)”;
    4. Annex 4” Research project proposal” (to be completed in English) (in accordance with the form in Annex 2 to the selection regulations “Methodology for completing a research application”)
    5. Annex 5 “Postdoctoral researcher's statement of double funding” (in accordance with the form in Annex 3 to the selection regulations “Methodology for completing a research application”);
    6. Annex 6 The research applicant's financial management and accounting policy; Application for compliance with the research and knowledge dissemination organization" (in accordance with the Appendix of the Methodology for determining the compliance of research and knowledge dissemination organizations), which must be filled out in accordance with the 1st round selection regulations Appendix 1 "Methodology for filling out the research application submission form" and the form in Appendix 6, as well as the annexes of this application, including the financial management and accounting policy of the research applicant;
    7. Annex 7 Statement of postdoctoral mobility (in accordance with the form in Annex 4 to the selection regulations “Methodology for completing a research application”) and supporting documentation *(if applicable):*
       1. If the mobility is to be accompanied by a family, the supporting documentation must include at least one of the following: a) a marriage certificate; b) a legal document justifying the equivalent status of a marriage recognised under the law of the country or region in which the relationship was established; c) a document certifying that the postdoctoral researcher has dependent children *(applicable to the family allowance of EUR 660 per month);*
       2. If the postdoctoral researcher is moving to Latvia with his/her family, the supporting documentation must include at least one of the following: a) a marriage certificate; b) a legal document justifying the equivalent status of a marriage recognised under the law of the country or region in which the relationship was established; c) a document certifying that the postdoctoral researcher has dependent children *(applicable to the lump-sum family allowance payment of EUR 660);*
       3. If the postdoctoral researcher moves to Latvia, attach supporting documentation confirming that the postdoctoral researcher has not stayed or carried out his/her main activity (work, training, etc.) in Latvia for more than 12 months during the 36 months before the call for research applications (e.g., copy of employment contract or certificate from the training institution or other supporting documents).
    8. Annex 8 ”Financial turnover statement of the scientific institution for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 (in accordance with the Excel sheet attached in Annex 5 to the selection regulations “Methodology for completing a research application”)*;*
    9. Annex 9 Agreement/memorandum of understanding between the postdoctoral researcher and the scientific institution in free form, confirming the planned collaboration between the postdoctoral researcher and the scientific institution in the framework of the research application, if approved, indicating the planned workload of 1 FTE, the duration of the employment contract and other conditions agreed between the research applicant and the postdoctoral researcher (e.g. content of the research application, conditions for technical and financial collaboration, rights, duties and responsibilities of the parties, and conditions for exploitation, implementation and commercialisation of the research application results, etc.).
    10. Power of attorney or an internal regulatory act of the institution attesting the authority to sign the research application (applicable if the research application is signed by a person other than the head or deputy head of the institution) *(if applicable)*;
    11. Translation of documents, including doctorate/PhD diploma if not issued in Latvian or English *(if applicable)*;
    12. European Commission decision approving the project submitted under the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowships for Postdoctoral Fellowships programme of the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation framework programme *(if applicable)*;
    13. A copy of the project application submitted under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships programme of the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation framework programme *(if applicable)*;
    14. Assessment of the scientific quality of the project by experts listed in the European Commission's database of experts *(if applicable)*;
  1. To ensure the quality of the research application form, the methodology for completing the research application form (Annex 1 of the selection regulations) shall be used*.*
  2. The applicant shall prepare and submit the research application to the POSTDOC information system by the deadline for submission.
  3. The research application and its annexes shall be approved by the responsible person of the research applicant or his/her authorised representative who has been granted access to the POSTDOC information system in accordance with the procedures laid down in Regulation 5.2.
  4. The annexes to the research application shall be signed by the responsible official of the research applicant or his/her authorised person with a secure electronic signature containing a time stamp (except for CVs and other documents which do not require a secure electronic signature of the authorised signatory). Postdoctoral statements shall be signed by the postdoctoral researcher with a secure electronic signature containing a time stamp.
  5. The signatory's signature rights must be established in accordance with the legal and regulatory framework. If the research application is signed by a person authorised by the research applicant, the authorisation of that person shall be accompanied by the relevant document.
  6. The research application shall be prepared in Latvian, except for Annex 4 “Research project proposal” and Annex 5 “Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the postdoctoral researcher”, which shall be prepared in English.
  7. In the research application submission, the amounts shall be expressed in *EUR* to 2 decimal places.

1. **PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE PROJECT APPLICATION**

5.1 The LSC announces the first open call for research applications by publishing a call for research applications in the official publication “Latvijas Vēstnesis”, on the European Commission portal "Euraxess" and on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science (www.izm.gov.lv).

5.2 The research application shall be submitted through the POSTDOC information system: <https://postdoc.lzp.gov.lv>. **The person responsible for the submission of the research application, or his/her authorised representative, shall conclude a contract for the use of the POSTDOC information system at least 2 weeks before the deadline for the submission of the research application.** To conclude the agreement, the research applicant must complete the contract form available on the LSC website [www.lzp.gov.lv](http://www.lzp.gov.lv) and send it signed with an electronic signature to [pasts@lzp.gov.lv](mailto:pasts@lzp.gov.lv) with the subject “Agreement for the use of the POSTDOC information system”.

5.3 Research applications shall be submitted by the deadline for their submission. If a research application is submitted after the deadline for submission of research applications, it will not be evaluated and the research applicant will receive a notification from the LSC refusing to evaluate the research application.

5.4 Once the responsible official has submitted the research application in the POSTDOC information system, changes to the research application are no longer allowed.

1. **PROCEDURE FOR THE EVALUATION OF RESEARCH APPLICATIONS**
   1. For the evaluation of research applications, the LSC shall set up a Research Application Evaluation Committee (hereinafter – “Evaluation Committee”).
   2. The Evaluation Committee is composed of seven members. The Evaluation Committee shall be composed of representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science as the responsible authority and representatives of the line ministries.
   3. The Evaluation Committee shall operate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the research application Evaluation Committee, which shall be approved by the LSC in agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science.
   4. The members of the Evaluation Committee shall comply with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Latvia and the European Union and shall be responsible for the timely, objective and thorough evaluation of research applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in Annex 2 to the Selection Regulations, as well as for respecting confidentiality. The composition of the Evaluation Committee shall respect the provisions of the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Actions of Public Officials and Article 61 of Regulation 2018/1046[[2]](#footnote-3).
   5. The evaluation of the administrative, eligibility and output indicator quality of research applications shall be carried out by the LSC staff and the Evaluation committee using Annex 2 of the selection regulations “Methodology for the evaluation of the administrative, eligibility and output indicator quality of research applications”, providing a score for each criterion and giving reasons for the score in cases where the criterion is “No” or “Yes with condition”.
   6. To assess the scientific quality of research applications, the LSC organises an international assessment of the scientific quality of research applications, involving experts from foreign scientific expert databases and applying the approach and principles of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships programme of the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation framework programme. For the evaluation, the foreign experts use Annex 3 of the selection regulations “Guidelines and criteria for the evaluation of the scientific quality of research applications”, providing a score and comments in support of the score.
   7. The total maximum score to be obtained for a research application after conversion of the coefficients is 3.8 points, including 3.5 points for scientific quality and 0.3 points for the quality of contributing to the achievement of the outcome indicators.
   8. If the research applicant has submitted a research application for the recruitment of a foreign postdoctoral researcher under the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation [Horizon Europe](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/)  Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships' programme and scored above the quality threshold in that evaluation of project applications, but did not receive funding to implement the project, these research applications shall be subject to an evaluation of the administrative quality, eligibility and outcome indicators, but shall not be subject to an evaluation of the scientific quality. Scientific quality is determined using the assessment of experts on the scientific quality of the project received within the framework of the “Postdoctoral Scholarship” programme of Marija Skłodowska-Curie of the European Union research and innovation framework programme [Horizon Europe](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/).
   9. The Evaluation Committee shall evaluate the research application and take a decision on the results of the evaluation of the scientific quality of the research application and on the approval, conditional approval (on the basis of Section 68(1) of the Administrative Procedure Law) or rejection of the research application.
   10. The opinion of the Evaluation Committee is reflected in the decision of the LSC.
   11. At the end of the evaluation, the Evaluation Committee will validate the results of the evaluation, which will be summarised in two lists of research applications to be recommended for approval/rejection:
       1. fundamental research applications;
       2. industrial and applied research applications.
   12. If the research application is to be approved subject to conditions (on the basis of Section 68(1) of the Administrative Procedure Law), the deadline for fulfilling the conditions shall be specified in the decision of the LSC.
   13. Upon receipt of the updates to the research application, the Evaluation Committee will evaluate the updated research applications against the criteria for which the additional conditions were set and complete the evaluation section of the research application in the POSTDOC information system.
   14. If the applicant fails to comply with the conditions set out in the decision to conditionally approve the research application or fails to comply with them within the time limit set in the decision, the Evaluation Committee shall reissue its opinion on the conditional approval of the research application in accordance with the procedure set out in the selection regulations. If any of the conditions specified in the repeated LSC decision are not met or are not met within the time limit set in the decision, the research application shall be considered rejected.
2. **THE DECISION TO APPROVE, APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS OR REJECT A RESEARCH APPLICATION AND THE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE**
   1. On the basis of the opinion of the Evaluation Committee, the LSC shall issue a decision (hereinafter – “decision”) on:
      1. approval of a research application;
      2. conditional approval of the research application (based on Section 68(1) of the Administrative Procedure Law);
      3. rejection of the research application.
   2. A decision to approve a research application shall be taken if the research application fulfils the following conditions:

7.2.1 the administrative evaluation criteria;

7.2.2 the eligibility criteria;

7.2.3 criteria for assessing the quality of the outcome indicators;

7.2.4 the research application has obtained a consolidated score of at least 3 points before weighting for each of the scientific quality criteria and a total score of at least 2.4 points after weighting for the scientific quality criteria from the foreign experts;

7.2.5 it has sufficient funding to be approved in the relevant selection round.

* 1. Decision on the conditional approval of a research application (based on Section 68(1) of the Administrative Procedure Law) shall be adopted if:

7.3.1 the research application does not meet any of the criteria for assessing the administrative, eligibility and output quality of a research application;

7.3.2 the scientific quality of the research application has been assessed by foreign experts with a score of at least 3 points before weighting for each of the scientific quality criteria and a total score of at least 2.4 points after weighting;

7.3.3 sufficient funding is available for approval in the relevant selection round.

* 1. The applicant must make the clarifications and additions requested by the LSC in the decision to conditionally approve the research application within the time limit set in order for the research application to fully meet the quality assessment criteria for the administrative, eligibility and outcome indicators of the research application.
  2. A decision to reject a research application shall be taken if:
     1. in the consolidated evaluation of the scientific quality of the research application by foreign experts, the research application has received less than 3 points before weighting for any of the scientific quality evaluation criteria or less than 2.4 points in total after weighting;
     2. the research application is not relevant to the objectives of the Latvian Smart Specialisation Strategy or to the development of the areas of specialisation;
     3. does not meet the criteria for assessing the administrative, eligibility and output indicator quality of the research application;
     4. there is insufficient funding to approve the research application in the relevant selection round.
  3. If a research application is rejected due to insufficient funding in a given call for research applications, the research application shall be placed on the reserve list.
  4. At the end of the evaluation, the Evaluation Committee will approve two reserve lists of research applications:
     1. fundamental research applications;
     2. industrial and applied research applications.
  5. If the research application is conditionally approved, the Evaluation Committee will re-evaluate the criteria that were identified by the LSC as needing to be clarified/added after the submission of the clarifications. The LSC takes its decision on the basis of the opinion of the Evaluation Committee:

7.8.1 that the conditions of the research application have been fulfilled, provided that the updates to the research application meet all the conditions set out in the decision;

7.8.2 re-adopt the decision to approve the research application with conditions if the conditions contained in the decision to approve the research application with conditions are not fulfilled.

7.9 After submitting repeated clarifications in the research application, the Evaluation Committee evaluates them according to the criteria for the fulfilment of which additional conditions were set, and gives an opinion on the fulfilment of the conditions. The LSC takes its decision on the basis of the opinion of the Evaluation Committee on:

7.9.1 the conditions of the research application have been fulfilled, provided that the updates to the research application meet all the conditions set out in the decision;

7.9.2 failure to fulfil the conditions of the research application and rejection of the research application if the research applicant fails to fulfil the conditions set or fails to fulfil them within the time limit set. (For a research application, the applicant may fulfil the conditions a maximum of 2 times).

7.10 The decision on the approval, conditional approval (based on Section 68(1) of the Administrative Procedure Law), rejection and the opinion on the fulfilment or non-fulfilment of the conditions of the research application shall be prepared by the LSC in the form of an electronic document and notified to the applicant in accordance with the procedure established by the regulatory acts. The decision on the approval of the research application includes information on the contracting procedure.

7.11 Funding is awarded to the research applications that score the highest overall score on the scientific quality assessment criteria and the outcome indicator quality assessment criteria.

7.12 In the event of several research applications receiving the same number of points, priority will be given to those research applications which have received the highest number of points in the scientific quality evaluation criterion “Excellence”. If they have obtained the same score in the scientific excellence evaluation criterion, the research applications which have obtained the higher score in the scientific impact evaluation criterion will be supported.

* 1. If one of the supported applicants withdraws its research application or does not sign the contract for the implementation of the research application, the Evaluation Committee shall select from the reserve list the research application with the next highest overall score in the list and propose its approval to the Evaluation Committee:

7.14.1 the industrial research application is replaced by the highest-scoring research application that involves industrial research;

7.14.3 a fundamental research application, the highest-scoring fundamental research application shall be substituted.

* 1. Information on the approved research application shall be published on the LSC website [www.lzp.gov.lv](http://www.lzp.gov.lv).

1. **FURTHER INFORMATION:**
   1. Questions related to the preparation of a project application and its submission must be sent to the following e-mail address: [pasts@lzp.gov.lv](mailto:pasts@lzp.gov.lv). Replies to questions sent by research applicants are sent electronically. Questions must be submitted no later than 2 working days before the deadline for submission of the research application.
   2. The draft text of the contract on the implementation of the research application may be updated during the contracting process if, at the time of the call for applications for the specific aid objective, not all the regulatory acts relevant to the conditions for implementing the research application have been approved (Annex 4 to the Regulations for the 1st selection round of research applications).

Annexes:

Annex 1. Methodology for completing a research application with annexes;

Annex 2. Methodology for assessing the administrative, compliance and output indicator quality of research applications;

Annex 3. Guidelines and criteria for the evaluation of the scientific quality of research applications with annexes;

Annex 4. Draft contract for the implementation of the research application;

*Coordinated with the Ministry of Education and Science on 26.07.2024.*

Director                             L. Muizniece (*Muižniece*)

1. The cost of the lump sum benefit must be within the maximum total eligible funding of the research application of EUR 191,700. If the maximum available funding is planned for the research application (i.e., if all funding positions (remuneration and unitary costs) are used together with the both monthly mobility allowances and the postdoctoral researcher's and family relocation allowance), the inclusion of the allowances mentioned in point 1.9.5 exceeds this maximum funding for the research application and the planned costs of the research application need to be adjusted accordingly, for example by reducing the duration of the research application. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014 and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)