



## Annex 5. Project selection criteria

Criterion number	Criterion name	Criterion description	Potential score	Required score
<b>First stage of assesment</b>				
1	The project does not cover the types of activities that have been excluded	It needs to be verified whether the subject matter of the project does not cover the types of activities excluded from eligibility for support referred to Article 2 (2) and Article 5(2) of the Ministry of Development, Labour and Technology Regulation.	0 or 1	1
2	The project is in line with the incentive effect	It needs to be verified whether the implementation of the project did not start before or on the day the application was submitted.	0 or 1	1
<b>The project has to score 2 points during first stage of the assessment in order to proceed to second stage of the assessment.</b>				
<b>Second stage of assesment</b>				
1	The project is in line with the objectives of the Programme	It needs to be assessed whether and to what extent: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is the project in line with the overall goal of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021; the goal and thematic scope of the “Business Development and</li> </ol>	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6	1

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	and the objectives of the grant scheme	<p>Innovation” Programme, as well as the goal and thematic scope of the Blue Growth scheme, which have all been listed in the Call for proposal text;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. are the objectives of implementing the project expressed by the indicators declared and justified in the application and do the project’s indicators contribute to Programme targets;</li> <li>3. does the project extend to eligible activities specified in the Call for proposal text.</li> </ol>		
2	The project is profitable and its implementation is justified	<p>It needs to be assessed whether and to what extent is the project implementation profitable and justified, considering the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the need for implementing the project and its importance for the company’s development;</li> <li>2. financial projection regarding the revenues and costs related to the implementation of the solution that constitutes the project’s subject matter, including such indicators as the net present value (NPV) and the internal rate of return (IRR);</li> <li>3. correctness and feasibility of the market analysis, assumptions and data, adopted by the Applicant in determining the market potential of the solution being implemented;</li> <li>4. is the requested financing amount adequate to the planned activities, measured by comparing the required outlays with grant to the expected outcome.</li> </ol>	0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5	1
3	Innovation	<p>It needs to be assessed whether and to what extent are the products (services or goods), processes or solutions to be implemented under the project innovative, considering the level of the entrepreneur, level of the sector, national or international level, as well as the importance of innovation of products (services or goods) processes or solutions, given the needs of the solution’s recipient (the applicant or the market).</p>	0, 1, 2, 3 or 4	1

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4	The project is ready for implementation and feasible	<p>It needs to be assessed whether and to what extent is the project ready for implementation, considering the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. project coherence and preparation progress, including credibility of the presented data, feasibility and correctness of the project schedule, also when it comes to achieving its envisaged results. The schedule provides for obtaining the necessary administrative documents, including licenses or permits;</li> <li>2. project risk, including whether the applicant carried out an honest risk analysis and planned for activities mitigating the identified risk factors;</li> <li>3. technological and personnel resources available to the applicant for project implementation, including whether the applicant demonstrated that the resources currently at their disposal and that they plan to obtain over the course of the project are sufficient for the project's implementation;</li> <li>4. experience of the managerial staff and the way of managing the project (decision making path);</li> <li>5. the applicant's resources when it comes to intangible assets of relevance to the project's implementation, including whether the applicant is entitled to manage intangible assets used to prepare or implement the project.</li> </ol>	0, 1, 2, 3 or 4	1
5	The Applicant is capable of financing the project	<p>It needs to be assessed whether and to what extent is the Applicant in possession of sufficient funds to finance all expenditures that the project entails. The Applicant must have funds sufficient to carry out the project, ensure its financial liquidity, with the grant taken into account.</p>	0, 1, 2, 3 or 4	1
6	Socio-economic impact of the project	<p>It needs to be assessed whether and to what extent:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. is the project consistent with:</li> </ol>	0, 1 or 2	1

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		<p>a) the gender equality and non-discrimination principles, including access for persons with disabilities, as well as the principle of equal treatment of women and men – project implementation cannot contribute to unequal treatment of persons on the grounds of their gender, race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, denomination, belief system, disability, age or sexual orientation. At the same time, the project should ensure that its products are accessible to people with disabilities;</p> <p>b) the principle of sustainable development – according to the principle of sustainable development, support cannot be granted to projects that lead to the degradation or substantial deterioration of the natural environment. The project should pay heed to requirements related to environmental protection, resource efficiency, adjusting to climate change and mitigating its effects, biodiversity, resistance to natural disasters, as well as prevention and management of risk related to environmental protection;</p> <p>2. the project offers added value in the socio-economic dimension, understood as increasing employment among the unemployed, contributing to a positive migration balance in the region, improving quality of the environment, having a positive impact on the development of local business and/or technological communities, fostering knowledge among local residents and entrepreneurs.</p>		
7	Expenditures under the project are eligible, rational and justified from the perspective of	<p>It needs to be assessed whether the expenditures to be incurred under the project and planned to be covered by grant:</p> <p>1. are properly assigned to the appropriate categories of expenditures;</p>	0 or 1	1

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	the project's scope and goal, as well as the overall goals of the Programme and a given grant scheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. are in line with minimum and maximum amount of grant e.i. not less than 200 000 EUR and no more than 2 000 000 EUR<sup>1</sup></li> <li>3. are eligible pursuant to the state aid rules, including whether the grant level is in line with the limits of allowed support specified in the Call for proposal text, as well as the thresholds of cumulation of state aid as referred to in Article 8 of Regulation No 651/2014 are not exceeded, in particular whether the project costs indicated as eligible are the subject of support granted as part of public aid or <i>de minimis</i> aid from other sources;</li> <li>4. are justified and rational for the project activities and goals envisaged by the Applicant, as well as the overall goals determined for the Programme and a given grant scheme. The term "rational" should be understood as meaning that the amount must be adequate to the scope of planned activities/ needs. It cannot be either overstated or understated. The term "justified" should be understood as meaning that the amount is necessary and directly related to implementing the activities declared eligible and planned for under the project;</li> <li>5. in the case of attempting to obtain regional investment aid, it needs to be verified whether the project applies to one of the forms of the initial investment, i.e. investment in tangible and intangible assets related to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) setting-up a new establishment,</li> <li>b) extension of the capacity of an existing establishment,</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		

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<sup>1</sup> To determine the PLN equivalent of the minimum and maximum grant value expressed in EUR, the EUR exchange rate is used in accordance with § 4 of Call for proposals.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) diversification of the output of an establishment into products not previously produced in the establishment;</li> <li>d) introducing a fundamental change in the overall production process of the existing establishment.</li> </ul>		
8	The eligibility of the Project partner(s) and quality of the partnership under the project (applies only to partnership projects)	<p>Assessment shall extend to the planned partnership under the project, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Eligibility of project partner (s) and partner's selection process.</b> It needs to be verified whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the partner(s) is/are a private or public entity established in Norway subject to the Norwegian law, conducting activity in the territory of the Kingdom of Norway, certified with an entry in a relevant register or with another document issued by a competent administrative authority in the Kingdom of Norway;</li> <li>b) the partner's activity is consistent with the project's subject matter;</li> <li>c) the partner(s) and the authority acting on their behalf have not been convicted by a valid judgement for the crime (clean criminal record);</li> <li>d) the partner(s) is/are not in arrears with payments on account of public-law receivables (clean tax record);</li> <li>e) the partner(s) was/were selected applying the best business practices to achieve the best results in relation to the costs incurred ensuring the highest ethical standards, as well as the avoidance of conflict of any interests.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>Conditional partnership agreement.</b> It needs to be assessed whether and to what extent is the partnership agreement consistent with the template of a partnership agreement constituting Annex 6to the Call for proposal text.</li> <li>3. <b>Partnership quality.</b> It needs to be assessed whether:</li> </ol>	0, 1, 2, 3 or 4	0

Criterion number	Criterion name	Criterion description	Potential score	Required score
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the Applicant and partner(s) share the same economic and social objectives, which are to be achieved through the implementation of a given project;</li> <li>b) a clear division of duties and responsibilities has been established between the partners;</li> <li>c) extent of the partner's involvement in preparing the project and its implementation, as well as their contribution to achieving the results assumed for the project</li> <li>d) project partner's costs are justified and rational for the project activities and goals.</li> </ul>		
9	Cooperation with Polish research and development institutions	It needs to be assessed whether and to what extent has cooperation with Polish research and development institutions under the project been accounted for by the Applicant.	0, 1 or 2	0

During second stage of the assessment project **can receive maximum 32 points**.

A project may be selected for grant if it has met the required project selection criteria in the first stage of the assessment, it has met project selection criteria in the second stage of the assessment and received **at least 14 points**, provided that for each of the criteria 1–7 it received at least 1 point.

**Decisive criteria:**

1. In the case of obtaining the same total number of points, support shall first be granted to projects that received a higher number of points in the criterion "The project is in line with the objectives of the Programme and the objectives of the relevant grant scheme".
2. In the case of obtaining the same total number of points and the same number of points in the criterion "The project is in line with the objectives of the Programme and the objectives of the relevant grant scheme", support is first granted to projects that received a higher number of points in the criterion "The eligibility of the Project partner (s) and quality of the partnership under the project".

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3.		If the above decisive criteria are not sufficient to determine the order of projects on the ranking list, support is first granted to projects implemented in the poviat in which the unemployment rate is higher.		