



Measure 1.1.1.9 “Postdoctoral Research” Fifth Call for Proposals

Questions and Answers from the Seminar of 29 September 2026

Seminar, Materials and Access to Information

Question

Will the seminar recording be available?

Answer

Yes. The seminar recording will be sent by email to registered participants and will be available on the Latvian Council of Science YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G38TwGWFp78>

Question

Will the seminar/presentation be in Latvian?

Answer

Yes. The seminar is held in Latvian. The recording will be available on YouTube, where subtitles can be enabled and automatic translation into English can be used.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G38TwGWFp78>

Question

Where is information on the Fifth Call for Proposals available in English?

Answer

The documentation, conditions, deadlines and submission requirements for the Fifth Call for Proposals are available in English in the Fifth Call section of the LCS website. [5th Call for research applications under the 1.1.1.9. activity “Post-doctoral Research” | Latvijas Zinātnes padome](#)

Question

Where will the seminar recording be published?

Answer

On the Latvian Council of Science YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G38TwGWFp78>

Cooperation Partners and Cooperation with an Undertaking

Question

What are the conditions for cooperation with an undertaking in the case of a non-economic industrial research project?

Answer

The cooperation must be genuine and related to the joint implementation of the research. The application identifies the undertaking as a cooperation partner and justifies its selection, tasks, contribution and benefits. Its involvement may include infrastructure, data, materials, specialists, joint testing or validation of results. A cooperation partner declaration is submitted in Part I of the application; after approval of the application, a cooperation agreement is concluded.

Question

Does the undertaking's contribution have to be financial co-financing?

Answer

No. The undertaking's contribution may consist of the work of specialists and the provision of technical infrastructure. The contribution must be specific, justified and necessary for the joint implementation of the research.

Question

How should the undertaking's contribution be justified in Part I of the application?

Answer

In the partner section and the scientific description, specify the undertaking's specific tasks and their link to the research results, the competence of the specialists involved and their planned work contribution, the infrastructure to be provided and the extent of its use, as well as the partner's benefits and the intended use of the results.

Question

Can a cooperation partner be changed after the application has been submitted?

Answer

If cooperation with an undertaking is intended to fulfil a mandatory indicator, the specific partner forms part of the evaluated application and cannot be freely replaced. If, for objective reasons, the partner is unable to continue its participation, the LCS must be contacted with a justification for an individual assessment; approval of a change is not automatic.

Question

What is a cooperation partner?

Answer

The cooperation partner section identifies other organisations involved in implementing the research. Research tasks may be carried out in cooperation with the partner and, where the mobility conditions are met, mobility may also take place at the partner organisation. Following approval of the application, the terms of cooperation are set out in a cooperation agreement.

Question

Can an association or other non-profit organisation be a cooperation partner in a non-economic research project?

Answer

An association or other non-profit organisation may be involved if it meets the relevant requirements for a partner. However, where cooperation in a non-economic industrial research application is intended to fulfil the requirement for cooperation with an undertaking, an association or other non-profit organisation that does not have the status of an undertaking does not fulfil this condition.

Question

How is an undertaking defined? Is a Latvian limited liability company (SIA) an undertaking?

Answer

A Latvian undertaking is a merchant registered with the Register of Enterprises of the Republic of Latvia; an SIA registered in the Commercial Register is an undertaking. A foreign undertaking is an undertaking registered in the relevant country in accordance with that country's legislation.

Question

What result must be achieved for cooperation with an undertaking?

Answer

The indicator is considered achieved when a cooperation agreement has been concluded with an undertaking for cooperation in the implementation of the research project.

Question

Must mobility for industrial research take place only at the selected undertaking?

Answer

No. Mobility may also take place at a foreign higher education institution or scientific institution. Cooperation with an undertaking and mobility may take place with different partners.

Question

May the declaration of a foreign cooperation partner be signed using an electronic signature from another EU Member State?

Answer

Yes, provided that it is a qualified electronic signature (QES) that complies with the requirements of the eIDAS Regulation.

Question

In which language should the cooperation partner declaration of a foreign undertaking be submitted?

Answer

The document may be submitted in Latvian or English; if it is prepared in another language, a translation must be attached.

Question

Can the work of the undertaking's specialists and use of its infrastructure be financed from the project's research costs, and must the undertaking's own contribution be valued in monetary terms and shown in the budget/co-financing?

Answer

The work of the undertaking's specialists and the use of its infrastructure may be envisaged within the framework of cooperation under the application; however, it is essential that the cooperation is genuinely aimed at jointly carrying out research activities and is not used as a means of circumventing the requirements of the Public Procurement Law.

If the undertaking participates in the application with its own funding, the amount and conditions of the contribution are agreed by the parties in the cooperation agreement between the undertaking and the scientific institution. The research application budget does not contain a separate section for indicating the undertaking's co-financing or contribution.

The application budget provides for research costs of EUR 1,000 per month, which may be used to cover costs directly related to the implementation of the research in accordance with the conditions of the application.

Question

Which annex to Methodology 1.A should be used for the cooperation partner declaration of a foreign undertaking - Annex 7 or Annex 9?

Answer

If a foreign undertaking is involved as a cooperation partner, Annex 7 to Methodology 1.A must be submitted.

Question

Must cooperation with an undertaking be maintained after the end of the project, for example for another year?

Answer

The indicator for cooperation with an undertaking is achieved by concluding a cooperation agreement and actually implementing the planned cooperation during the implementation of the research application. There is no requirement to continue cooperation with the specific undertaking for an additional year after the end of the research application.

Mobility

Question

Can the mandatory mobility be divided into several periods?

Answer

Yes. The mandatory mobility may be divided into several shorter visits, provided that they total at least 60 calendar days.

Question

Can long-term mobility support be received if the mobility takes place in Latvia?

Answer

No. Mobility support applies to mobility abroad that takes place continuously for at least 6 months. Long-term mobility cannot be split into separate periods.

Question

Can the mandatory two-month mobility be implemented at a cooperation partner in Latvia?

Answer

No. The mandatory two-month mobility is international mobility and must be implemented abroad.

Question

Is the two-month mobility calculated in person-hours?

Answer

No. Mobility is calculated in calendar days; a total of at least 60 calendar days must be ensured. Mobility is recorded according to the number of days specified in the business travel order.

Question

Is a confirmation from the host institution required for short-term mobility at the time of submitting the application?

Answer

No. A separate prior confirmation does not have to be submitted. The mobility must be justified in the application, including by indicating it in the Gantt chart. The applicant/postdoctoral researcher is responsible for arranging the mobility with the host/cooperation partner.

Question

Should the mobility description in the system simply be copied from the scientific description?

Answer

The information must be consistent with the Research Project Proposal. The research content, activities and results to be achieved that formed the basis for the scientific quality evaluation may not be substantially changed.

New Research Position, Employment and Sustainability**Question**

When is a new research position considered to have been created?

Answer

The indicator may be achieved if, before the announcement of the call (14 September 2026), the person was not employed by the relevant employer, or if the person was previously employed in a position that was not a position of scientific staff or scientific technical staff.

Question

Does a previous administrative project manager position prevent fulfilment of the new research position condition?

Answer

The condition may be fulfilled if the previous position was not a position of scientific staff or scientific technical staff and, after the announcement of the call, the person is employed in a scientific position.

Question

Does a change from researcher to leading researcher constitute a new research position?

Answer

No, if the person was already employed in a scientific staff position by the same employer before the PostDoc project. A change in the level of the position does not constitute the creation of a new research position under the programme conditions.

Question

Can a new research position be counted for a docent?

Answer

The indicator may be achieved if the previous position was not a position of scientific staff or scientific technical staff and employment in a scientific position begins after the announcement of the call.

Question

What must the postdoctoral researcher's workload be?

Answer

Full-time - 1 FTE.

Question

Must the new research position also be maintained after the end of the project?

Answer

Yes. If the application provides for the creation of a new research position, its sustainability must be ensured for at least one year after the end of the implementation of the research application.

Question

May a postdoctoral researcher manage another project with a small workload during the PostDoc project?

Answer

The postdoctoral researcher is employed full-time - 1 FTE - in the PostDoc project. Additional work is permitted provided that it does not overlap with PostDoc working time, is properly recorded and remunerated, does not create a risk of double funding, and does not affect the performance of PostDoc tasks. We recommend that the additional workload should not exceed 0.2 FTE.

Question

If a person worked as a scientific laboratory assistant for the same employer in 2015, can the new research position condition now be fulfilled?

Answer

When assessing the condition for a new researcher position, the person's employment with the research application applicant on the date the call was announced - 14 September 2026 - is decisive. When assessing the person's employment status and position held, the position specified in the employment contract, agreement or job description is taken into account, as well as the occupation code and description assigned to the relevant position in the Classification of Occupations. If, on 14 September 2026, the person was not employed by the applicant in a scientific staff or scientific technical staff position, the researcher position created within the PostDoc project may be assessed as meeting the condition for a new researcher position. Each case is assessed individually on the basis of documents confirming the person's employment and position held.

Question

If a person was previously employed in research for the duration of a project but was no longer in a scientific position when the call was announced, can the new position condition be fulfilled?

Answer

When assessing the condition for a new researcher position, the person's employment with the research application applicant on the date the call was announced - 14 September 2026 - is decisive. When assessing the status, the position specified in the employment contract, agreement or job description is taken into account, as well as the occupation code and description assigned to the relevant position in the Classification of Occupations. If, on 14 September 2026, the person was not employed by the applicant in a scientific staff or scientific technical staff position, the researcher position created within the PostDoc project may be assessed as meeting the condition for a new researcher position. Compliance is assessed individually and, where necessary, must be substantiated by employment documents.

Question

If a person has been an elected leading researcher for several years but has had no employment contract for approximately one year, can the condition for a new position be fulfilled?

Answer

When assessing the condition for a new researcher position, the person's employment with the research application applicant on the date the call was announced - 14 September 2026 - is decisive. The assessment takes into account the position specified in the employment contract, agreement or job description, as well as the occupation code and description assigned to the relevant position in the Classification of Occupations. If, on 14 September 2026, the person was not employed by the applicant in a scientific staff or scientific technical staff position, the researcher position created within the PostDoc project may be assessed as meeting the condition for a new researcher position. Each case is assessed individually on the basis of documents confirming the person's employment status and position held.

Question

How does a “voluntary researcher” agreement affect the new position criterion?

Answer

In the case of a “voluntary researcher” agreement, the person’s actual employment with the research application applicant on 14 September 2026 is also decisive when assessing the condition for a new researcher position. The content and legal nature of the specific agreement must be assessed, including whether, on that basis, the person was employed in a scientific staff or scientific technical staff position. The assessment takes into account the position specified in the employment contract, agreement or job description, as well as the occupation code and description assigned to the relevant position in the Classification of Occupations. If, on 14 September 2026, the person was not employed by the applicant in a scientific staff or scientific technical staff position, the researcher position created within the PostDoc project may be assessed as meeting the condition for a new researcher position. Compliance in the specific case is assessed individually on the basis of the documents submitted.

Question

What happens to the one-year sustainability requirement if the postdoctoral researcher wishes to continue employment elsewhere after the project?

Answer

If a new research position is created within the research application, the research application applicant must undertake to maintain that position throughout the implementation of the research application and for one year after its completion.

If the postdoctoral researcher terminates the employment relationship during this period, the research application applicant must ensure that the research position created is maintained, if necessary by employing another researcher. The replacement researcher must meet the conditions of the research application and be equivalent in order to ensure the sustainability of the achieved indicator.

Research Application, Evaluation and Implementation

Question

Can the research content, activities or results be changed after the project has been approved?

Answer

No. After approval of the research application, the research content, planned activities and results to be achieved that formed the basis for the scientific quality evaluation may not be substantially changed.

Question

Does the postdoctoral researcher's CV affect the scientific quality evaluation?

Answer

Yes. The postdoctoral researcher's qualifications and professional experience are not merely a matter of administrative eligibility. The CV is submitted in Part I and is taken into account in the scientific quality evaluation, including the assessment of previous experience, achievements and professional development potential.

Question

Can the postdoctoral researcher complete the application in the PostDoc system?

Answer

Yes. The system has different roles - postdoctoral researcher, administrator and applicant. The postdoctoral researcher may complete the application sections individually, although the practical organisation of the work may differ between institutions.

Question

Must the sections on horizontal principles and sustainability be completed in Stage I?

Answer

No. In the PostDoc system, the sections "Compliance with horizontal principles" and "Maintenance of research application results and ensuring sustainability" are completed in Stage II when submitting the full research application.

Question

What changes are permitted after project approval, and which require prior approval by the LCS (e.g. place/duration of mobility, methodology)?

Answer

During implementation of the research application, it may become necessary to refine certain activities initially planned. Whether changes are permissible is assessed according to whether they affect the substance, activities, results to be achieved and indicators of the approved research application.

It must be ensured that everything provided for in the approved research application is implemented in full. This applies to the activities, results and milestones set out in Section 1.5 “Research application activities and results to be achieved”, including their number and units of measurement in accordance with the Research Project Proposal, as well as the indicator values set out in Section 1.6 “Monitoring indicators” for the first year of implementation, the mid-term stage and completion. The duration, purpose and tasks of mobility specified in the “Mobility” section must likewise be implemented.

The results achieved by the research application are evaluated by foreign experts at the mid-term stage and upon completion. Taking into account the conclusions of the mid-term evaluation and the recommendations provided by the experts, the beneficiary, the research application applicant and the responsible authority may agree on necessary adjustments to the work plan. Such adjustments may not change the substance of the research and do not remove the obligation to achieve, within the specified implementation period, all results and indicators provided for in the approved research application.

Question

Why must the planned activities/results be indicated both in the application and in the PostDoc system?

Answer

The Research Project Proposal contains the detailed research description required for the scientific quality evaluation, whereas the structured information entered in the PostDoc system is required for application administration, preparation of the agreement, monitoring of implementation and recording of indicators/results. The information provided in both places must be mutually consistent.

Applicants, Funding, Costs and Documents

Question

Must a doctoral degree obtained abroad be recognised in Latvia?

Answer

If the doctoral degree diploma was issued outside Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, the Netherlands, Luxembourg or Belgium, Part II of the application must include a statement from the Academic Information Centre on the academic recognition of the foreign education document and academic degree. If the diploma is not in Latvian or English, a translation must also be submitted.

Question

Can an NGO/think tank be an applicant?

Answer

For a non-economic application, the applicant must be a scientific institution or higher education institution registered in the Register of Scientific Institutions and meeting the definition of a research and knowledge-dissemination organisation. For an economic application, the applicant may be a scientific institution registered in the Register of Scientific Institutions or an undertaking registered with the Register of Enterprises of the Republic of Latvia.

Question

Can an institute contribute its own resources for raw materials/reagents?

Answer

For a non-economic application, the institution contributes 5% from private or base funding.

Question

Can a SCOPUS-indexed scientific monograph be a project deliverable if it is available only for a fee? Can the project pay the publisher for the right to make the monograph accessible?

Answer

Yes. The project may cover a fee charged by the publisher for ensuring access to a scientific monograph, including open access, if these costs are directly related to the publication of the project results.

At the same time, such costs are eligible only if the author of the monograph does not receive royalties or any other financial benefit from the publisher for that publication. Project funding cannot be used to cover publishing costs in a situation where the author simultaneously receives income from the same publication.

Therefore, if the payment is made to the publisher solely for publishing the monograph or ensuring access to it and the author does not receive royalties from it, such costs may be covered from project funds.

Question

Must documents be signed using the Latvian eParaksts/eDoc, or can a qualified electronic signature from another EU Member State be used?

Answer

A qualified electronic signature (QES) from another EU Member State that complies with the eIDAS requirements is acceptable. For practical reasons, it is recommended that the Research Project Proposal be signed in PDF format using a qualified electronic signature so that the document can be easily opened by foreign experts.

Support for Foreign Researchers

Question

Can the LCS recommend a specific professor or research group to a foreign researcher who wishes to apply to the programme?

Answer

We recommend that a prospective applicant contact Latvian scientific institutions and higher education institutions whose research areas correspond to the proposed project in order to discuss cooperation opportunities and agree on the possible preparation and hosting of a research application.

For additional support, we invite prospective applicants to contact Darja Aksjonova, EURAXESS Latvia contact person, who can provide information and advice on research and career opportunities in Latvia and help navigate the search for host institutions and cooperation opportunities. The EURAXESS Latvia network of contact points provides foreign researchers with free personalised information and advice.

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More information on EURAXESS and the support available:

<https://www.lzp.gov.lv/lv/euraxess>