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**METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING THE ADMINISTRATIVE, COMPLIANCE AND OUTPUT INDICATOR QUALITY OF RESEARCH APPLICATIONS**

**NON-ECONOMIC RESEARCH APPLICATIONS**

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| Programme name | European Union Cohesion Policy Programme for 2021–2027 |
| Priority number and name | * 1. Research and skills |
| Number and name of the specific aid objective | 1.1.1 “Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies” |
| Number and title of the Activity of the specific aid objective | 1.1.1.9 “Postdoctoral research” |
| Type of call for applications | Open call for research applications |
| Project implementer | Latvian Council of Science (hereinafter – “LCS”) |
| Project title: | Postdoctoral research |

**General conditions of the evaluation criteria for research applications**:

1. In order to assess compliance with the relevant evaluation criterion, the evaluator must take into account both the information provided in the relevant sections of the research application and all other information available in the research application (other sections and annexes of the application).
2. In assessing the eligibility of a research application, only the information available in the research application and the annexes should be taken into account. The assessment cannot be based on assumptions or other information that cannot be verified or proven or that is not relevant to the specific research application. However, if the evaluator has any information that may influence the evaluation of the research application, specific facts and sources of information must be provided to substantiate and prove the information provided by the evaluator.

1. When assessing a research application submission, attention should be paid to the consistency of the information provided in the research application submission between all the sections of the research application submission in which it is mentioned. Where there is a discrepancy between sections, a provision should be made for an additional explanation to be provided under the criterion to which the discrepancy relates.
2. The following should be used in the evaluation of a research application:
   1. 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” (hereinafter – “SAO Cabinet Regulation”);
   2. European Union Cohesion Policy Programme for 2021–2027;
   3. 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”, the regulations of the second selection round of research applications, including the evaluation criteria for research applications and the methodology for filling in the research application form;
3. In the evaluation of the non-fillable criteria, once an administrative criterion has been evaluated as “No”, the evaluation of the other non-fillable criteria shall not be continued.
4. In the evaluation of fillable criteria, if a research application does not meet all or part of one of these requirements, the evaluation shall be “Yes, conditional”, with an appropriate condition to refine the research application.

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| **1. ADMINISTRATIVE CRITERION** | | **Clarification for Eligibility Determination** | **The influence of the criterion on decision-making**  **(N-non-fillable, P-fillable)** | | |
| **Expert's No. 1 individual assessment** | **Expert's No. 2 individual assessment** | **Consolidated score** |
|  |  | **NON-FILLABLE CRITERIA** |  |  |  |
| 1.1 | The research applicant has submitted the research application within the deadline set by the POSTDOC information system | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the research applicant has submitted the research application to the POSTDOC information system within the deadline set out in the Regulations  If the research applicant has not submitted the research application within the deadline set out in the Regulations, the **evaluation is “No**”, rejecting the research application. | N | N | N |
| 1.2 | The applicant meets the requirements set out in Paragraph 29 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the research applicant meets the requirements for a research applicant set out in Paragraph 29 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation – a scientific institution registered in the Register of Scientific Institutions of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter – “scientific institution”), which establishes an employment relationship with the postdoctoral researcher and provides access to infrastructure and human resources for the implementation of the research required by the research application.  If the research applicant does not fully or partially comply with the requirements set out in the SAO Cabinet Regulation, **the evaluation is “No**”, rejecting the research application. | N | N | N |
| 1.3 | The type of research application indicated in the research application is “non-economic”. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the type of research application indicated is “non-economic” and the research category is ‘industrial research’.  If the type of research application is not appropriate, **the evaluation is “No**”, rejecting the research application. | N | N | N |
| 1.4 | The “Research project proposal” is in English, fully completed and accompanied by the postdoctoral researcher's curriculum vitae (CV) in English. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the applicant has completed all the sections in Annex 4 “Research project proposal” of the research application form and they are in English. The research application must be accompanied by the postdoctoral researcher's curriculum vitae (CV) in English.  **The evaluation is “No”** if the research application is not accompanied by one of the following documents:   1. “Research project proposal” in English, 2. Resume of the postdoctoral researcher in English.   Also, if the applicant has not submitted a fully completed “Research project proposal” in English. | N | N | N |
| 1.5 | As part of the research application, the postdoctoral researcher intends to develop his/her scientific capacity and research competences through an international mobility (including training) of at least two months; | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the POSTDOC information system indicates in the data field of point 2.3.1 of the research application and in the form of Annex 4 “Research project proposal” a duration of international mobility (including training) of at least 2 months.  If the duration of the mobility (including training) is not indicated inthe research application as at least 2 months, the **evaluation will be “No”**, rejecting the research application. | N | N | N |
|  |  | **FILLABLE CRITERIA** |  |  |  |
| 1.6 | The research applicant has sufficient administrative, implementation and financial capacity to carry out the research application. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the administrative, implementation and financial capacity of the research application is sufficiently described in Section 2 or other sections of the research application in the POSTDOC information system.  The description provides information on:   * the management system of the research application, i.e., what actions are planned to ensure the successful implementation of the research application; * the implementation system of the research application, i.e., a description of the implementation system of the research application, how the research application implementer (postdoctoral researcher) is expected to cooperate with the scientific advisor, including information on the scientific advisor (name, surname, position, qualifications, short CV); * the monitoring mechanism of the co-operation partners, i.e., how the research applicant will monitor and ensure the quality of the services to be provided (access to infrastructure, materials and human resources) during the implementation (if applicable). * the administrative capacity, i.e., a description of the professionals planned to be involved in the administration of the research application; * implementation capacity, i.e., a description of the research applicant, the institution's focus and fields of activity, the institution's purpose and vision (a brief description of the research institution's strategy or business development plan); * key research facilities, infrastructure and materials; * previous and current experience in research and mobility programmes, indicating similar national or international research and mobility projects in which the research applicant has participated or is currently participating; * related scientific articles and/or research/innovation products developed (up to five scientific articles or research and innovation products developed in the applicant institution). * financial capacity, i.e., information on the financial resources available for the implementation of the research application – prefinancing and co-financing, according to the type of research application.   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the information in Section 2 of the research application is missing or incomplete. | P | P | P |
| 1.7 | The research applicant and the research application co-operation partner (if applicable) have no tax debts in the Republic of Latvia on the date of submission of the research application, including State mandatory social insurance payment debts, which exceed EUR 150 in total for each of them individually. | The compliance criteria of the research applicant and the co-operation partner, if applicable, are checked individually in the database of tax (charge) debtors (hereinafter – “SRS debtors' database”) administered by the State Revenue Service (hereinafter – “SRS”)[https://www6.vid.gov. lv /NPAR](https://www6.vid.gov.lv/NPAR), where, information is updated every month on the 7th (seventh) and 26th (twenty-sixth). The assessment is based on the information available in the SRS debtors' database on the date closest to the submission of the research application or updates to the research application to the LCS, e.g., if the research application is submitted on 20 July, the decision on the research applicant is based on the information available on 7 July. The date of the examination and the situation ascertained shall be indicated on the evaluation form for the research application, and the evidence of the examination shall be retained.  **The evaluation is “Yes”** if:  1) based on the information available in the SRS debtors' database on the date closest to the submission of the research application or updates of the research application to the LCS, the research applicant and the co-operation partner do not have tax debts, including State mandatory social insurance payment debts (hereinafter – “tax debts”), exceeding EUR 150 in total;  2) based on the information available in the SRS debtors' database, if on the date closest to the date of submission of the research application to the LCS the research applicant or co-operation partner has tax debts, but on the date closest to the date before the LCS decision to approve/approve the research application with conditions, the research applicant and co-operation partner have no tax debts in the SRS debtors' database totalling more than EUR 150, the condition of payment of the debt shall not apply and a “Yes” evaluation shall be given for the criterion.  **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if, according to the information available in the SRS debtors' database, on the closest published date prior to the submission of the research application and prior to the LCS's decision to approve/approve the research application with conditions, the research applicant and the co-operation partner have tax debts totalling more than EUR 150. | P | P | P |
| 1.8 | The research application in the POSTDOC information system is completed in full in Latvian in accordance with the SAO Cabinet Regulation on the implementation of the specific aid objective, and all the annexes specified in the selection regulations are attached and prepared in Latvian or accompanied by a translation into Latvian. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the research application is completed in full in Latvian in the POSTDOC information system and the research application is accompanied by all the annexes required by the Regulations for the selection of research applications and they are in Latvian or accompanied by a translation into Latvian, except for Annex 4 “Research project proposal” of the research application form and the CV of the postdoctoral researcher, which are to be completed in English.  **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet any of the requirements. | P | P | P |
| 1.9 | The financial calculation of the research application is arithmetically accurate and complies with the data field requirements of the POSTDOC information system. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the POSTDOC information system contains the following sections 9 and 10 of the research application:   * the financial calculation is arithmetically accurate (i.e., there are no mathematical errors) * the financial calculation is made using two decimal places; * the financial calculation is made accurately and in accordance with the data fields defined in the POSTDOC information system and the funding amounts are cross-checked in sections 9 and 10 of the research application.   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet these requirements. | P | P | P |
| 1.10 | The envisaged amount of funding of the research application is in line with the amount of funding of the research application set out in the SAO Cabinet Regulation, the indicated intensity of public funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) does not exceed the maximum aid intensity set out in the SAO Cabinet Regulation, and the sources of co-financing indicated in the research application are in line with the SAO Cabinet Regulation. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the amount of funding indicated in the POSTDOC information system in Section 1.1, Section 9 and Section 10 of the research application does not exceed the amount of EUR 192, 360 referred to in Paragraph 61 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation and the ERDF support intensity indicated in the research application does not exceed that referred to in Paragraph 56 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation.  Where the applicant is a scientific institution carrying out a non-economic research application, the eligible ERDF aid intensity is 85 %.  The sources of co-financing indicated in the research application are in line with Paragraphs 56 and 60 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation:   * if the applicant is a scientific institution carrying out a non-economic research application, the national co-financing required for the implementation of theresearch applicationshall be provided from:  1. no more than 10 % of state budget funding;   (b) other resources at the disposal of the research organisation, including its own economic activities, credit resources, other financial resources or funding granted in accordance with the regulatory acts on the procedure for the provision of state budget funds for the implementation of the core activities of a national scientific institution, or in-kind contributions, the value of which can be independently audited and assessed. The total contribution in kind shall not exceed 5 % of the total eligible costs of the research application. Compliance with the in-kind contribution percentage limitation shall be verified and recorded in absolute figures by the beneficiary when approving the research application submission. During the period of implementation of the research application, the cost line of the research application budget containing contributions in kind shall not be reduced in absolute terms if other cost lines of the research application budget:   * savings are made and the total eligible costs of the research application are therefore reduced, while the objectives and indicators of the research application are achieved; * identifies inappropriate costs, the non-attribution of which reduces the total eligible costs of research applications.   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet these requirements. | P | P | P |
| 1.11 | The research applicant meets the requirements of Sub-paragraphs 32.1., 32.2. and 32.3 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the research applicant fulfils the requirements of Sub-paragraphs 32.1., 32.2. and 32.3 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation according to the information provided in Section 6.1 of the research application, the applicant's accounting policy, etc. in the POSTDOC information system:   * they are not subject to a recovery order as referred to in Article 1(4)(a) of Commission Regulation No 1; * 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;   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet these requirements. | P | P | P |
| 1.14 | The total eligible costs of the Activity, the planned activities to be supported and the cost headings included in the research application comply with the requirements set out in the SAO Cabinet Regulation, including not exceeding the specified cost headings and:  - are necessary for the applicant to carry out the research (to carry out the activities specified for the applicant, to meet the needs of the research target group, to solve the defined problem);  - ensure that the research applicant achieves its objectives and indicators. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if:   * the planned activities indicated in the research application (including Section 1.5 of the POSTDOC information system) are in line with the activities to be supported as defined in Paragraph 45 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation; * the planned costs indicated in the research application (in Section 10 and other sections of the POSTDOC information system, if applicable) correspond to the eligible costs defined in Paragraphs 62 to 64 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation; * the amount of costs planned in the research application (POSTDOC information system, sections 10 and others, if applicable) does not exceed the cost limits set out in Paragraphs 56, 61 and 62 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation; * each cost item is identified by the appropriate number of units and the appropriate unit name; * if the cost items included in the research application are derived from all the planned activities of the research application and are justified by a description of the scientific objective, the scientific problem of the research and the solution to it, as described in all the relevant sections of the application. * if the costs envisaged in the research application ensure the achievement of the objective, results and indicators set out in the research application (i.e., the objective, results and indicators set out in the research application cannot be achieved without them).   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet all the requirements for a research application as set out in the SAO Cabinet Regulation. | P | P | P |
| 1.15 | The implementing period of the research application is in line with the implementing period of the Activity as set out in the SAO Cabinet Regulation. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the POSTDOC information system is adequate according to the information provided in Section 8 and Section 2.3 (and other sections if applicable) of the research application:   * the research applicant starts the implementation of the supported activities within 6 months after the decision on the approval of the research application has been taken, in accordance with Paragraph 47 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation. * the co-operation partners are expected to start the activities planned in the research application after the conclusion of the collaboration agreements referred to in Paragraph 31 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation, but not earlier than the date of approval of the research application (if applicable); * the period of implementation of the research application shall not exceed the period of implementation of the research application specified in Paragraph 41 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation – i.e., not more than 36 months after the date of conclusion of the contract for implementation of the research application, but not more than until 30 June 2029; * ensuring that the funding plan in Section 9 of the research application in the POSTDOC information system is consistent with the timetable for implementation of the research application.   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet all the requirements for a research application as set out in the SAO Cabinet Regulation. | P | P | P |
| 1.16 | The expected results and monitoring indicators planned in the research application are well defined, justified, measurable and contribute to the achievement of the output indicators set out in the SAO Cabinet Regulation. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if:   * The POSTDOC information system shall indicate in section 1.5 of the research application (and in other sections, if applicable) for each activity a reasonable (clearly derived from the activity), well-defined and measurable result that will be achieved as a result of each activity of the research application; * if the POSTDOC information system provides in section 1.6 of the research application (and in other sections, if applicable) reasonable (clearly derived from the project activities), well-defined and measurable monitoring indicators for the research application. They contribute to the achievement of the monitoring indicators set out in Paragraph 6 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation.   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet all of these requirements. | P | P | P |
| 1.17 | The publicity and information dissemination activities planned in the research application comply with the provisions of Articles 47 and 50 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and the Communication and Design Guidelines for the programming period 2021–2027 of the European Union Funds and the Recovery Fund. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the information and publicity activities indicated in Section 5 of the research application (and other sections if applicable) in the POSTDOC information system comply with the Communication and Design Guidelines for the European Union Funds 2021–2027 programming period and the Recovery Fund:   * + the research applicant posts on its website and social networks, at least every six months, up-to-date information on the implementation of the research application, including the objectives and results, and an indication that it is co-funded with financial support from the European Union;   + a prominent statement highlighting the support received from the European Union in documents and communication materials related to the implementation of the research application and intended for dissemination to the public or to participants;   + display at least one poster of minimum A3 size, or equivalent electronic notice, clearly visible to the public, setting out the details of the research application and highlighting the support received from European Union funds.   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet all of these requirements. | P | P | P |
| 1.18 | The research application identifies, describes and evaluates the risks of the research application, assesses their impact and likelihood of occurrence, and identifies mitigation activites. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the research application has assessed in the POSTDOC information system all the risks identified in section 2.4 (and other sections if applicable) of the research application (risks to the achievement and administration of financial, implementation, results and monitoring indicators), has indicated the impact (high, medium, low) and the probability (high, medium, low) of each risk occurring and has developed a justified action plan to address these risks, i.e., the activities to address all these risks are described and the action plan is substantiated.  Research applications must address at least the following risks:  financial risks (financial resources to make payments, accounting and progress reporting);  implementation risks (technological risks, definition and planning of activities (operations), organisational structure);  risk of achieving the results and monitoring indicators (risk of meeting the planned monitoring indicators, risk of achieving the planned results of the research application);  administrative risk (adequacy of human resources, organisational management, quality of documentation for payment claims);  other risks (if applicable).  **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet all of these requirements. | P | P | P |
| 1.19 | The postdoctoral researcher meets the requirements for the target group of the Activity as set out in the SAO Cabinet Regulation. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the postdoctoral researcher, according to the copy of the diploma submitted as an annex to the research application, fulfils the requirements for the target group of the Activity set out in Sub-paragraph 2.10 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation – a Latvian or foreign scientist who has obtained a doctoral degree not more than ten years before the deadline for submission of the research application. This period may be extended if the person has a valid reason.  **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application is accompanied by incomplete information, e.g., no translation of the doctoral diploma or supporting information for the extension of the deadline in relation to Sub-paragraph 2.10 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation. | P | P | P |
| 1.20 | The co-operation partner of the research application (if applicable) meets the requirements set out in the SAO Cabinet Regulation. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the selected implementing co-operation partner indicated in Section 1.9 of the research application in the POSTDOC information system meets the requirements set out in Paragraph 32, Sub-paragraph 32.1 and Sub-paragraph 32.2 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation.  The research application may be carried out 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 to carry out the research required by the research application. The co-operation partner may benefit from economic advantages and intellectual property rights arising from the activities carried out under the co-operation partner's research application in proportion to each co-operation partner's contribution to the implementation of the research application.  The co-operation partner of the research applicant meets the following requirements set out in Paragraph 32 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation (applicable to research applications subject to State aid framework):   * they are not subject to a recovery order as referred to in Article 1(4)(a) of Commission Regulation No [651/2014](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/651?locale=LV); * they are not considered to be in financial difficulties in accordance with Sub-paragraph 2.7 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation and a declaration of compliance with Article 2(18)(c) of Commission Regulation No 651/2014 is submitted;   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the information provided in the research application does not fully or partially meet all of these requirements. | P | P | P |

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| **2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERION** | | **Clarification for Eligibility Determination** | **The influence of the criterion on decision-making**  **(N-non-fillable, P-fillable)** | | |
| **Expert's No. 1 individual assessment** | **Expert's No. 2 individual assessment** | **Consolidated score** |
| 2.1 | The research applicant meets the specific requirements set out in the SAO Cabinet Regulation. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the research applicant fulfils the specific requirements set out in Sub-paragraphs 2.1.,2.2. and 2.3 and 32.4 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation:  In the case of a non-economic research application:  verify that the research applicant meets the definition of a research organisation, i.e., that the application has been submitted by a scientific institution registered in the Register of Scientific Institutions of the Republic of Latvia, which meets the definition of a research organisation set out in Article 2(83) of Commission Regulation No 651/2014. The compliance of the scientific institution with the definition of a research organisation shall be verified by **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).** Eligibility is assessed taking into account, *inter alia*: (a) whether the main purpose of the scientific institution is to carry out scientific activities – fundamental research, industrial research, experimental development or dissemination of the results of scientific activities in the form of training, publications or technology transfer;  (b) the research applicant has indicated in the POSTDOC information system (in the Research Application Form) that it will be implemented as non-economic activity;  (c) where the scientific institution also carries out economic activities, whether the funding, income and expenditure of those economic activities are separately accounted for, including in order to effectively prevent cross-subsidisation of the economic activities; it has been reflected in the financial management and accounting policies of the scientific institution, a turnover account, as well as in the application;  (d) the main purpose of the scientific institution is to carry out scientific activities – fundamental research, industrial research, experimental development or dissemination of the results of scientific activities in the form of training, publications or technology transfer - it has been reflected in the financial management and accounting policies of the scientific institution, as well as in the application;  (e) companies that can influence such an institution, for example by being its shareholders or members, do not have preferential access to the research capacity of such an organisation or the research results it produces - it has been reflected in the financial management accounting policy, intellectual property policy, or another document of the scientific institution.  **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if it is not possible to ascertain whether the research applicant meets any or all of these requirements/conditions. | P | P | P |
| 2.2 | Readiness of the research application to start. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the POSTDOC information system provides information in Section 1.2 or other sections (if applicable) of the research application that justifies the fulfilment of the condition set out in Sub-paragraph 35.3 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation, i.e., the research applicant has agreed with the postdoctoral researcher on the content of the research application, the conditions for technical and financial cooperation, the rights, duties and responsibilities of the parties and the conditions for the use, implementation and commercialisation of the research application results. Annex 9 of the regulation of the 2nd selection round of research applications has been submitted – 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.).  **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if it cannot be verified that the research applicant has agreed with the postdoctoral researcher on the conditions for the implementation of the research application. | P | P | P |
| 2.3 | The objective of the research application is in line with the objective set out in the SAO Cabinet Regulation. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the POSTDOC information system provides information in Section 1.2 or other sections (if applicable) of the research application that justifies the relevance of the objective of the research application as set out in Paragraph 3 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation, i.e.:   * developing postdoctoral skills and scientific capacity, as well as improving research competences, * provides opportunities for postdoctoral researcher to start their career in research institutions or with companies, * ensuring the renewal of human resources and the growth of skilled professionals   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet all of these requirements. | P | P | P |
| 2.4 | The research application creates synergies or complementarity with other research projects. | **The evaluation is “Yes**” if the POSTDOC information system provides information in section 2.5 of the research application that:   * the research application creates synergies or complementarity with other research projects, e.g., Activity 1.1.1.4 “Mobility, exchange of experience and cooperation activities for improving international competitiveness in science”, National Research Programmes, etc.   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet the above requirements. | P | P | P |
| 2.5 | The relevance of the activities planned under the research application to the current strategy of the scientific institution and to the Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3), the implementation of priorities and/or the area of specialisation. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if the POSTDOC information system provides information in sections 1.3, 6.1 or other sections of the research application (if applicable) that:   * the development of the research strand is foreseen in the current strategy of the research institution; * the topic of the research application is relevant to a specific RIS3 framework, priority and/or area of specialisation (please specify which), including relevance for interdisciplinary research.   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet all of these requirements. | P | P | P |
| 2.6 | The applicant undertakes to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved after the completion of the research application, in accordance with the Cabinet Regulation on the implementation of the specific aid objective. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if, in the POSTDOC information system, in Sections 3 and 6 of the research application or in other sections (if applicable), the research applicant describes and justifies the sustainability of the results achieved for at least one year after the completion of the research application, ensuring the development of the research strand of the research application and the sustainability of the job created:  describe and justify the sustainability of the research application, i.e., how the research applicant ensures the sustainability of the results achieved for at least 1 (one) year after the completion of the research application,  the sustainability of the research workplace created for at least one year after the completion of the research application.  describes and justifies how the competences and skills developed during the postdoctoral research application will ensure sustainability and what contribution will be made to the institution, for example, during the implementation of the research application, the postdoctoral research will develop and attract other financial sources to achieve the goals set in the institution's operational strategy, develop the research direction, create a new research group, etc.   * describes and justifies how the development of the research direction initiated in the research application will be continued (the description of the scientific institution includes justification for the developed effective development strategy and the research directions included in the research programme), ensuring an increase in the number of scientific articles published in highly cited journals in accordance with RIS3 guidelines, implementation of priorities and development of areas of specialization and Sub-paragraph 6.2 of the SAO Cabinet Regulation for the monitoring indicators, and also indicate how the acquisition, approvals, defence and maintenance (if applicable) of technological rights (intangible assets) obtained from conducting research activities will be organized.   **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet all of these requirements. | P | P | P |
| 2.7 | The specific actions proposed in the research application contribute to the achievement of the horizontal principle “Equality, inclusion, non-discrimination and respect for fundamental rights”. | **The evaluation is “Yes”** if, in the POSTDOC information system, in section 3.1 of the research application or in other sections (if applicable), the research applicant describes the specific actions foreseen in the research application and they contribute to the horizontal principle “Equality, inclusion, non-discrimination and respect for fundamental rights”, i.e., reducing discrimination of any kind (gender, race, ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, sexual orientation, age, etc.) and creating equal opportunities for all members of society. Equal opportunities are ensured in 3 main areas:  - gender (women, men),  - age (all age groups),  - disability (visual, hearing, mobility and mental impairments).  **The evaluation is “Yes, conditional”** if the research application does not fully or partially meet all of these requirements. | P | P | P |

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| **3. QUALITY CRITERIA FOR OUTCOME INDICATORS** | | **Scoring system – point scale** | **Minimum points required** | **Clarification for Eligibility Determination** |
| 3.1 | The research application is intended to develop a new product or technology that is commercialisable and for which support has been provided under the research application *(The criterion applies only to industrial research).* | 0–1 | The criterion gives an extra point | **Sub-criterion 3.1.1 applies and zero points are awarded** if the research application (in Table 1.6, Section 1.5 and the research project proposal in the POSTDOC information system) does not plan to develop a new product or technology that is commercialisable.  **Sub-criterion 3.1.2 applies and one point will be awarded if** the research applicant justifies in Table 1.6 of the POSTDOC information system, as well as in Section 1.5 and in the research project proposal, that the research application will lead to the development of at least one new product or technology that can be commercialised.  *Commercialisable new product or technology – a new product (goods or services) developed as part of a research application that is completely new or has improved functional characteristics or changed intended use (including changed or improved specifications, components, materials, added software, user-friendly features) and technology (new and unproven technology compared to the state of the art in the industry, which involves a risk of technological or industrial failure and is not an optimisation or improvement of an existing technology) number of prototypes with a given level of technology maturity (commercialisable). At the same time, the sustainability of the results of the research application shall be ensured during the implementation of the research application or at the latest within one year after the last payment, by contributing to the development of the innovation system through one or more of the following types of contribution:*   * *ensuring the protection of rights in the technology associated with the prototype;* * *signing an intellectual property licence agreement related to the prototype;* * *development of a prototype for introduction into production or service provision (in this case, the development of a prototype shall be counted as the highest value of the technology readiness level of the prototype at the level of the specific aid objective, i.e., if the development of a prototype for introduction into production or service provision is achieved through a research project under the same Activity or another Activity of specific aid objective 1.1.1, the outcome indicator with a specific technology readiness level as achieved shall be counted only once).* |
| 3.1.1 | The research application does not intend to develop a new product or technology that can be commercialised and for the development of which support has been provided under the research application. | 0 |
| 3.1.2 | The research application is intended to develop a new product or technology that is commercialisable and for which support has been provided under the research application. | 1 |
| 3.2 | The research application will create a new post of 1 FTE (This criterion applies to both economic and non-economic applications. | 0–1 | The criterion gives an extra point | **Sub-criterion 3.2.1 applies and zero points are awarded** if the research application (as indicated in Table 1.6 of the POSTDOC information system) does not foresee the creation of a new post in the research applicant's entity, in line with the research focus of the research application.  **Sub-criterion 3.2.2 applies and one point is awarded** if the research application (as indicated in Table 1.6 of the POSTDOC information system) creates a new post of 1 FTE the research applicant's entity, in line with the research focus of the research application. |
| 3.2.1 | The research application does not foresee the creation of a new post of 1 FTE. | 0 |
| 3.2.2 | The research application foresees the creation of a new post of 1 FTE. | 1 |