APPROVED

by the Implementation and Monitoring Commission of the National Research Programme

“Education” 2023-2026

 implementation and monitoring commission

(established by Minister for Education and Science Order No. 1-2e/23/322 of 6 October 2023

09.10.2023 Decision 1

**National research programme “Education” open call for proposals**

**I. General provisions**

1 The national research programme “Education” project application tender regulations (hereinafter - Regulations) set the procedure for the organising and implementation of the national research programme “Education” (hereinafter - Programme) by the Latvian Council of Science (hereinafter - Council), on the basis of Cabinet Regulation 560 “Procedure for the implementation of projects under national research programmes” of 4 September 2018 (hereinafter - Cabinet Regulation) and in compliance with Cabinet Order of 2023 5 September No. 567 “About the National research programme “Education” (hereinafter - the Cabinet Order).

2 These regulations have been prepared on the basis of Section 16 of the Cabinet Regulation.

3 The total state budget funding available for the Tender under the Programme is EUR 4,500,000 (four million five hundred thousand euros) (hereinafter - the total funding of the Programme). Of this amount, *EUR* 270 000 (two hundred and seventy thousand) is intended to cover administrative costs. The total funding of the Tender is used be used in conformity with Section 36 of the Cabinet Regulation:

3.1 to finance projects;

3.2 to implement the measures referred to in Section 37 of the Cabinet Regulation.

4 The project implementation period is 36 months from the date of entry into force of a project implementation agreement (hereinafter - the Project Agreement). Within the framework of the Project Agreement, the project implementation period may be extended for the time period and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Section 39 of the Cabinet Regulation. A project shall be financed over a period of at least 12 (twelve) months.

5 The call for proposals will finance a total of six projects, one for each of the tasks set out in Clause 5 of the Cabinet Order, with the following maximum project funding per task:

5.1 EUR 950 000 for the task under Clause 5.1. of the Cabinet Order;

5.2 EUR 1 350 000 for the task under Clause 5.2. of the Cabinet Order;

5.3 EUR 500 000 for the task under Clause 5.3. of the Cabinet Order;

5.4 EUR 730 000 for the task under Clause 5.4. of the Cabinet Order;

5.5 EUR 350 000 for the task under Clause 5.5. of the Cabinet Order;

5.6 EUR 350 000 for the task under Clause 5.6. of the Cabinet Order.

6 The Council shall launch the call for tenders in accordance with the procedure laid down in Section 17 of the Cabinet Regulation and shall administer, support, monitor and control the implementation of the project under the Project Agreement in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Cabinet Regulation.

7 A project applicant who complies with the provisions of Sections 2.12 and 9.1 of the Cabinet Regulation (hereinafter - the applicant) shall draft a project application in accordance with Annex 1 “Project Application” to the regulations (hereinafter - the project application). The deadline for submitting a project application is up to 30 calendar days from the day of the call for proposals (hereinafter - the deadline).

8 The Council shall state in the call for tenders:

8.1 the name of the tender;

 8.2 the total funding for the tender;

 8.3 the deadline for the submission of project applications;

 8.4 a website containing the information needed to submit project applications.

9 The applicant shall submit a project application covering only one of the programme objectives set out in Clauses 5.1.; 5.2.; 5.3.; 5.4.; 5.5.; 5.6. of the Cabinet Order. To ensure full coverage of the chosen objective and task, the project may be implemented by the applicant in collaboration with several other scientific organisations. The project applicant may submit one project application for each of the tasks set out in Sub-Clauses 5.1.; 5.2.; 5.3.; 5.4.; 5.5; 5.6. of the Cabinet Order , subject to the following conditions:

9.1 to develop a well-considered and balanced research design, choosing research methods and technologies that are appropriate for scientific activity and research, including innovative research methods and technologies such as *design-based research*, with an emphasis on practical solutions;

9.2 to use data sets collected in Latvia, including the State Education Information System (SEIS), the Latvian Open Data Portal, the Central Statistical Office and other data;

9.3 to use international comparative research and international good practice in relation to national contexts and needs;

9.4 systematic reviews and meta-analyses should be an essential part of the study;

9.5 to evaluate existing solutions, proposing improvements or developing new solutions to achieve the research results;

9.6 to base the focus of the study on a feasibility study based on an analysis of existing policy priorities and ongoing reforms;

9.7 to ensure active involvement of the user (target group) for the validation of the research results in practice at all levels - educational institution, municipality, national level - through continuous development of the research results based on the validation. Where applicable, use research methods to validate the results of studies that allow the identification of causal relationships based on experimental or quasi-experimental methods;

9.8 the sample and solution testing set must be representative;

9.9 to assess the need (depending on the planned research topic) for collaboration between different disciplines and sub-disciplines to ensure the quality of the research objectives;

9.10 to develop internal project monitoring and risk management mechanisms for the quality implementation of the study, including the establishment of a project steering committee.

10 Project proposals shall be implemented in order to achieve the following the objectives and tasks of the Programme:

10.1 to provide individual and personalised support to pupils in ethnically and linguistically diverse learning environments (according to different levels of ability and language proficiency). The task of achieving the objective is to develop didactics, methodologies and support systems (including specific interventions) for the pre-primary (5-6 years) and primary (1st-9th grade) to develop basic skills (literacy, numeracy, science), key competences (critical thinking and problem solving, self-directed learning) and to reinforce an inclusive approach to education (with a particular focus on early diagnosis of inclusion risks and the provision of appropriate support);

10.2 to provide opportunities for personalised learning, teaching and assessment, using AI and other technological solutions, with academic integrity and a positive impact on the quality of education. The task of achieving the objective is to develop a technology prototype at group (including classroom, course) and educational institution (including higher education) level, based on research into existing good practice (including the adaptive learning approach) and education policy priorities (including current education reforms), and providing effective teaching, learning and assessment processes and personalised solutions to support the learner;

10.3 to build the capacity of teachers, education authorities and local education authorities to manage effective changes and innovations, to improve the performance of education institutions, to manage the quality of education and to strengthen the learner-centred approach.. The task of achieving the objective is to study and profile the thinking and action patterns (including beliefs, convictions, values) of educators, education authorities and municipal education professionals, as well as to develop and validate solutions (including specific policies, professional development models, other tools) for their development and improvement at the educational institution, education authority, municipal and national levels;

10.4 to provide effective professional development for adults, including teachers, and to transfer the results of professional development into practice. The tasks of achieving the objective are to assess the impact of professional competence development on practice by collecting examples of good practice and assessing key barriers, and to develop effective models (solutions) for professional competence development at organisational and system level for the target group of adults and for the target group of teachers, including the identification of specific instruments, processes and indicators to measure the effectiveness of professional competence development;

10.5 to provide for the transition and implementation of a new framework for academic careers in universities and research institutes. The task of achieving the objective is to develop a competency model for academic staff in line with the four-stage academic career framework, competency assessment tools in line with international practice and guidelines for implementing the competency model in universities and research institutes, including the establishment of a professional competence development system;

10.6 to promote the active civic participation of young people (13-25 years) and the development of ties with the local community and the country, based on formal and non-formal education. The task of achieving the objective is to carry out a situation analysis, including the identification of the main factors influencing the active civic participation of young people and the development of ties with the local community and the country, as well as the development of methodologies and strategies, including the development of cooperation mechanisms to stimulate youth participation at the educational institution, municipal and national levels.

**II. Project applicant and the collaborating partner project participation conditions**

11 In order to certify the applicant’s compliance with Sections 2.12 and 9.1 of the Cabinet Regulation, the applicant shall upload through the National Scientific Activity Information System (hereinafter - information system) Part D of the project application, “Applicant’s certification”, filled in and signed with a secure electronic signature, and bearing a time stamp (hereinafter - applicant’s certification), to the information system. If it is not possible to provide a secure electronic signature with a time stamp, the project applicant shall proceed in accordance with Section 18 of Annex 2 to the regulations "Methodology for the preparation and submission of the project application, the mid-term scientific report and the final scientific report" (hereinafter referred to as the "Submission Methodology"), Paragraph 18 (hereinafter - the submission methodology).

12 To ensure full coverage of the chosen objective and task, the project may be implemented by the applicant in collaboration with several other scientific organisations. - cooperation partners. The project partner complies with the provisions of Section 2.18 of the Cabinet Regulation. The project applicant shall engage project partners in accordance with the provisions of Section 9.3 of the Cabinet Regulation. In order to certify the cooperation within the project, the project applicant shall ensure that the project partner signs Part E “Certification of the project partner - scientific institution” (hereinafter referred to as “Certification of the project partner - scientific institution”) or Part F “Certification of the project partner - public institution” (hereinafter - Certification of the project partner - public institution) of the project application with a secure electronic signature bearing a time stamp which the project applicant shall attach to the project application. If a secure electronic signature cannot be provided, the project partner shall proceed in accordance with Section 22 or 26. the Submission Methodology.

 13 In order to certify the conformity of the project applicant or the project partner - scientific institution with the provisions of Section 2.12 of the Cabinet Regulation, the head of the scientific institution concerned shall submit the financial management and accounting policy of the scientific institution and the financial turnover report (Part G of the project application “Financial turnover report form”) for 2020 - 2022. 2021. If the scientific institution has private investors, it must provide a free-form declaration that the results of the research related to the project application will not be used for commercial purposes. The documents referred to in this Section shall be attached as an annex to the applicant’s certification and to the certification of the project partner, the scientific institution, in accordance with Sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the Submission Methodology.

14 The documents referred to in Section 13 of the regulations shall not be provided by the applicant or project collaboration partner which has been recognised as meeting the definition of a research organisation for open call for proposals of 2023 for basic and applied research projects[[1]](#footnote-1) and open calls for proposals of 2023 for national research programmes.

15 Within the framework of the project implementation, the project partner may be eligible for funding from the indirect eligible costs allocated to the project in proportion to the share of direct eligible costs allocated to the project partner, subject to the provisions of Section 14.2. of the Cabinet Regulation. of the Cabinet Regulation.

16 If the project partner is involved in the implementation of the project, including with human resources of its own, they will participate in the implementation of the project as principal investigators or promoters (which may include students in accordance with Section 44(1) of the Law on Higher Education Institutions). Information on the involvement of the project partner in the implementation of the project with its own human resources shall be indicated in Part A “General information” of the project application, Section 2 "Scientific Group".

**III. Conditions of the Scientific Group for the Participation**  **in he Project**

17 To ensure full coverage of the chosen objective and task, the project may be implemented by the applicant in collaboration with several other scientific organisations. The project applicant shall form a scientific group for the implementation of the project, under the following conditions:

17.1 Cabinet Regulation set out in Sub-paragraph 2.22.

17.2 creating interdisciplinary research teams, involving visiting and diaspora researchers.

18 In the project application, the project manager, the main project contractors and project contractors must comply with that laid down in Sections 2.13., 2.14. and 2.15. of the Cabinet Regulation. The remuneration of the staff of the research group involved in the execution of the project shall be determined in accordance with the remuneration policy and rates of remuneration of the project applicant and of the project collaborating partner (if any).

19. A scientist may only be named as a project manager in one project application per tender. If a scientist is listed as a project manager in more than one project application under the call, the Council will contact all the applicants concerned and ask them to indicate, within one working day, for which project application the scientist is project manager and in what capacity the scientist will be project manager for the other project applications (if applicable).

20 The workload in full-time equivalent (FTE) of one person, being the project manager, the main project contractor and project contractor, other than the student, shall be planned in such a way that the workload indicated in a single project application, as well as in the case of project implementation, does not exceed 1,0 FTE.

21 For the students included in the research groups indicated in the project application, and in the case of project implementation, the total average workload of all students over the duration of the project shall be at least 3.0 FTE.

22 The project application, as well as the project implementation, shall require that each student is employed in the project for at least 0.25 FTE on average during the project implementation period.

23. If a student completes a level of studies during the project period and starts the next level of study within four months at the latest, his/her involvement in the project during the four-month period shall be deemed to be in conformity with that laid down in Sections 21 and 22 of the regulations regarding engagement of the student in the project implementation.

24 If a doctoral student successfully completes the doctoral study programme and defends his/her doctoral thesis during the project period, his/her involvement in the project shall henceforth be deemed to be in conformity with that laid down in Sections 21 and 22 of the regulations regarding engagement of the student in the project implementation.

**IV. Activities and Costs to be Supported**

25. The applicant shall complete Part H of the project application “Non-economic activities”, which provides information on the conformity of the activities planned in the project application with Section 2.2 of the Cabinet Regulation.

26 The project applicant shall include the information on the eligible cost items of the project in Part A, Chapter 3 “Budget” of the project application in conformity with Section 14 of the Cabinet Regulation.

27 Indirect eligible costs which are not directly related to the achievement of the project results, but support and ensure appropriate conditions for the implementation of the activities to be supported under the project and for the achievement of the results, shall be planned as a single cost item, applying a flat rate of indirect costs of until 15 (fifteen) per cent of the total amount of costs referred to in Section 14.1 of the Cabinet Regulation, except for direct eligible costs referred to in Section 14.1.6 of this Regulation incurred in relation to the costs of external services (including work under enterprise contracts). The project applicant and the cooperation partner(s) (if any) must have established and approved internal procedures for the use and control of the indirect eligible costs of the project, the board of which is entitled to request and the project applicant (implementer) shall present to the board. If the project applicant engages a cooperation partner(s), the indirect eligible costs of the project shall be shared between the project applicant and the cooperation partner(s) in proportion to the direct eligible costs of the project shared between the project applicant and the project partner(s). The project applicant, when preparing and submitting the financial report referred to in Section 44.1 of the Cabinet Regulation, shall not provide the information and supporting documents on the use of indirect eligible costs calculated at the flat rate of indirect costs laid down in Section 14.2 of the Cabinet Regulation.

**V. Procedure for the preparation and submission of the project application**

 28 The project application shall be completed and submitted to the Council in electronic form in the Information System within the deadline for the submission of project applications.

29 The applicant shall complete and submit the project application in accordance with the submission methodology.

 30 In order to certify the project application as a whole, the applicant shall sign Part D of the project application “Applicant’s Confirmation” using a secure electronic signature with a time stamp.

**VI. Administrative evaluation of project applications**

31 The administrative evaluation of project applications shall be carried out by the Council in conformity with Annex 3 to the regulations, “Methodology for the evaluation of the conformity of the project application with the administrative evaluation criteria”, assessing the conformity of the project application with the administrative criteria laid down in Section 19 of the Cabinet Regulation and the supplementary administrative criteria laid down in Section 32.2 of the regulations within two calendar weeks from the deadline for the submission of project applications.

32 The project application shall be evaluated in conformity with the following administrative criteria, which shall not be supplemented (hereinafter - non-supplementary administrative criteria):

32.1 the administrative criteria laid down in Sections 19.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.4, 19.5, 19.6, 19.7 and 19.8 of the Cabinet Regulation;

32.2 additional administrative criteria:

32.2.1 cover all the common (horizontal) objectives of the programme as defined in point 6 of the Cabinet Order;

32.2.2 cover all the results set out in Section 7 of the Cabinet Order to be achieved during the Programme implementation.

33 The Council, taking into account the results of the administrative assessment of the project application, shall complete the form in the information system set out in Annex 4 to the regulations “Administrative Evaluation Criteria Form”, taking into account Section 20 Regulation.

34 If a project application does not comply with one of the non-supplementary administrative criteria, the Council shall, after the completion of the administrative examination of all project applications, send to the Implementation and monitoring commission (hereinafter - the Commission) a list of project applications which have been assessed against the administrative criteria and which do not comply with the non-supplementary administrative criteria, together with the reasons for each instance of non-conformity. The Commission shall evaluate the list and, in accordance with Section 8.3.2 of the Cabinet Regulation, make a decision to reject the project application.

**VII. Scientific Evaluation of the Project Application**

35 The Council shall, in accordance with that laid down in Chapter III of the Cabinet Regulation, shall organise the scientific evaluation of project applications (hereinafter - the evaluation), carrying out the evaluation activities set out in Chapter VII of the regulations.

36 For the evaluation of the project application, the Council shall, in accordance with Section 7.5 of the Cabinet Regulation, select and engage two or more scientific experts (hereinafter - the expert) who meet the requirements set out in Sections 23 and 24 of the Cabinet Regulation in order to qualify for the evaluation of programme tasks for the evaluation of the objectives of the programme set out in Clause 5 of the Cabinet Order, as well as for the evaluation of the conditions set out in point 9 of the Regulations. An expert may carry out the evaluation of several project applications according to his/her scientific qualifications and experience.

37 The Council shall ensure that the expert who has agreed to carry out the evaluation of the project application signs and submits to the Council the documents referred to in Annex 5 to the regulations “Confirmation of absence of conflict of interest and respect of confidentiality” by uploading them into the Information System.

38 The Council shall, with each expert, enter into agreement to carry out the expert-examination using the procedure laid down in Annex 6 to the regulations “Agreement on the performance of an expert-examination” (hereinafter - the Expert-examination agreement). The Expert-examination agreement may be adjusted during the contracting process in conformity with the content of the project application and the specificities of the expert-examination.

39 The Expert shall evaluate the project application by awarding one to five points for each scientific evaluation criterion laid down in Section 26 of the Cabinet Regulation as follows:

39.1 the scientific quality of the project in accordance with Cabinet Regulation Section 27; of the Cabinet Regulation;

39.2 the impact of the project results in accordance with the provisions of Cabinet Regulation Section 28; of the Cabinet Regulation;

39.3 the feasibility of the project and the safeguards in accordance with Cabinet Regulation Section 29 of the Cabinet Regulation;

40 Within two calendar weeks from the date of conclusion of the expert assessment agreement, each expert shall assess the project application by completing the individual project application expert-examination form (hereinafter - the individual expert assessment) in the information system, in accordance with Annex 8 to the regulations “Individual/consolidated assessment form for the expert-examination of the project application” in accordance with Annex 7 to the regulations “Methodology for carrying out the expert-examination (for the project application, mid-term/closing scientific report of the project)” (hereinafter - the Methodology for carrying out the expert-examination).

41 After receipt of the individual experts assessments on all project applications in the Information System, the Council shall, via online video conference (real-time video and audio transmission)organise and implement an expert panel discussion for the experts responsible for the preparation of the consolidated expert evaluation of the project applications, setting up an expert panel referred to in Sub-Clauses 5.1.; 5.2.; 5.3.; 5.4.; 5.5.; 5.6. of the Cabinet Order (hereinafter - the panel).

42 If only one project application is submitted for the tasks set in Sub-Clauses 5.1; 5.2; 5.3; 5.4; 5.5; 5.6 of the Cabinet Order, the Council shall not organise a panel on that project application and the examination of such project application shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure set out in Section 25 of the Cabinet Regulation.

43 Within three working days of the conclusion of the panel, the expert responsible for the preparation of the expert consolidated evaluation of the project application concerned, taking into account the individual expert evaluations of the project application concerned, shall complete the consolidated expert evaluation form for that project application (hereinafter - the consolidated expert evaluation) in the Information System, having regard to Annex 8 to the regulations “Individual/consolidated assessment form for the examination of the project application”, and within three working days agree it with the other experts involved in the expert-examination of the relevant project application who have individually assessed the project application and submit it to the information system. If the experts are unable to agree on a consolidated assessment due to a difference of opinion, the experts shall inform the Council. In this case, the Council shall engage an additional expert (hereinafter referred to as the additional expert) who shall first carry out an individual evaluation of the project application concerned within the time limit and in accordance with the procedures laid down in Section 40 of the regulations, submitting the expert’s individual evaluation, and then the additional expert shall consult the individual evaluations of the original experts. The additional expert shall prepare a consolidated assessment within the two calendar weeks, by agreeing with the expert whose individual assessment gives a total score closer to the total score given by the additional expert in his/her individual assessment. The additional expert, following coordination with the other expert, submits the consolidated assessment in the information system.

44 The expert is only allowed to evaluate 15 pages of the project application, with up to three additional pages if there are supporting documents from the social partners, letters of recommendation on cooperation, etc.

**VIII. Decision to grant funding or reject a project application**

45 On the basis of the consolidated expert evaluations submitted in the Information System, the Council shall, within three working days, calculate in the Information System the consolidated score for each project application (hereinafter referred to as the consolidated score) using the following formula, where:

$ K=\left(3A × 0,3\right)+\left(3B × 0,5\right)+\left(3C × 0,2\right), $where:

45.1 K - the consolidated mark;

45.2 A - assessment of the scientific criterion (scientific quality of the project) referred to in Section 27 of the Cabinet Regulation and its ratio is 30% of the consolidated mark (K);

 45.3 B - assessment of the scientific criterion (impact of project results) referred to in Section 28 of the Cabinet Regulation and its ratio is 50% of the consolidated score (K);

 45.4 C - assessment of the scientific criterion (feasibility of the project implementation and provision) referred to in Section 29 of the Cabinet Regulation  and its ratio is in the amount of 20% of the consolidated score (K).

46 The quality threshold for the consolidated peer review referred to in Section 45 of the regulations for the criterion laid down in Section 26.1 of the Cabinet Regulation (scientific quality of the project), at least three points for the criterion laid down in Section 26.2. of the Cabinet Regulation (impact of the project results), at least three points for the criterion laid down in Section 26.3 of the Cabinet Regulation (feasibility and support) and at least ten points for all scientific criteria laid down in Section 26 of the Cabinet Regulation in total.

47 The Council shall forward to the Commission:

47.1 the list of the experts’ assessments of the project applications within five working days of the date of submission of the consolidated experts’ marks of all project applications to the information system and application of the formula in Paragraph 45 of the By-laws. In this list, project applications are grouped according to the tasks set out in Clause 5 of the Cabinet Order and, within each task, ranked in order of priority according to the score obtained in the consolidated evaluation (hereinafter - the list of project applications), in accordance with Paragraph 32 and Sub-paragraph 33.1 of the Cabinet Regulation, and shall make the project applications included in this list and the experts’ consolidated evaluations available in the Information System in view mode.

47.2 a summary of the recommendations made by the experts in their consolidated evaluations for each project application (hereinafter referred to as "the experts’ recommendations").

 48 In accordance with Section 33.1 of the Cabinet Regulation, the Commission shall, within one week of receipt of the list of project applications and the recommendations of the experts, adopt the decision provided for in Section 8.3.1 or 8.3.2 of the Cabinet Regulation for each project application included in the list of project applications. The decisions made by the Council shall be forwarded to the applicants.

**IX. Entering into a project agreement and financing**

49 The Council shall, within 10 calendar days from the date of entry into force, as per Section 8.3.1 of the Cabinet Regulation, of the decision on granting funding for the implementation of the project, conclude a project agreement with the applicant (hereinafter - the project promoter), using Annex 9 to the Regulations “Agreement on the Implementation of the Project of the National Research Programme “Education””. If the Commission has decided on the necessity and validity of implementing the experts’ recommendations, the Council shall include the recommendations in the preparation of the project agreement. The wording of the project agreement may be adjusted during the project preparation process to reflect the specific content of the project.

50 Project costs are eligible from the date on which the Commission has adopted, per the provisions of Cabinet Regulation Section 8.3.1 the decision to grant funding for the project. In the event of non-compliance with the terms of the project agreement, the project and the rules of procedure, the Council shall require the project promoter to refund all or part of the financing granted to the project, in accordance with the terms of the project agreement.

51 Subject to a minimum project financing period of 12 months, the amount of the advance payment per project financing period shall be specified in the project agreement. If the project promoter needs to extend the project implementation period on the basis of Paragraph 39 of the Cabinet Regulation, it may be extended by up to one year for the consolidation and publication of results without additional funding, for which the project promoter shall submit a substantiated application to the Council at least three calendar months before the end of the project period on the need for the extension and project agreement annex 6 "Results consolidation plan".

52 Where a project involves a project partner, the project promoter shall conclude a cooperation agreement setting out the financial conditions, the arrangements for settling disputes and for non-disclosure of confidential information, the rules governing the entry into force, duration, termination, a detailed cooperation plan and budget, taking into account the project application, as well as the rules on intellectual property rights. The cooperation agreement shall be submitted by the project promoter to the Council within two calendar weeks of the date of mutual signing of the project agreement. The project promoter is responsible for transferring the advance and final instalments of the project to the project partners within the time limits and in accordance with the procedures laid down in the cooperation agreements.

**X. Submission and Evaluation of the Mid-term and Final Scientific Report of the Project**

53 The project promoter shall submit to the Council, through the Information System, the mid-term scientific report of the project within one month from the date on which half of the project implementation period has elapsed; and the final scientific report of the project within one month of the end date of the project as laid down in the project agreement. Where the duration of the project has been extended in accordance with point 51 of the Rules, the project promoter shall submit the final scientific report within one month of the expiry of the extension period in the information system.

54 The Council shall ensure that experts who meet the requirements laid down in Sections 23 and 24 of the Cabinet Regulation are involved in the assessment of the project’s mid-term scientific report and final scientific report of the project in accordance with the procedure laid down in Section 46 of the Cabinet Regulation.

55 The Council:

55.1 shall ensure that the mid-term scientific report or the final scientific report of the project is evaluated by at least two experts within two months in accordance with the procedure laid down in Section 46 of the Cabinet Regulation, by filling out Annex 10 to the Rules “Project mid-term/individual/consolidated evaluation form for the final scientific report” in accordance with the methodology for carrying out the expert evaluation. If the experts cannot agree on a consolidated assessment of the mid-term scientific report or the final scientific report of the project, the Council shall engage another expert who shall assess the mid-term scientific report or the final scientific report of the project and, taking into account the contributions of the experts previously engaged, i.e. the individual evaluations of the mid-term scientific report and the final scientific report of the project, prepare and submit in the information system a consolidated evaluation of the mid-term scientific report and/or of the final scientific report of the project, subject to prior coordination with the other experts who have provided individual evaluations of the mid-term scientific report and of the final scientific report of the project;

55.2 shall summarise the recommendations included in the consolidated expert evaluation of the mid-term scientific report or the final scientific report of the project and submit them for consideration by the Commission, which shall decide, within its terms of reference, on the necessity and feasibility of implementing those recommendations in the execution of the project concerned, instructing the Council to amend the project agreement accordingly, if necessary.

**XI. Mid-term and final report of the council on the implementation of the programme**

 56 The Council shall, in accordance with Section 7.6 and Section 50 of the Cabinet Regulation, prepare the mid-term or final report of the Council on the implementation of the programme (hereinafter - the Council’s report) within four months of the completion of the evaluation of mid-term scientific reports or final scientific reports of all projects of the Programme. In order to ensure transparency of information, the Council may group together all the projects in the Programme when preparing the Council’s report.

 57 The content of the Council report shall include:

57.1 statistics on funded projects (human resources involved, MSc/PhD theses defended);

57.2 the results achieved and a description of them in line with the programme’s objective and tasks in conformity with the Cabinet Decision;

57.3 a description of the scientific cooperation (e.g. at international level, consortia, planned applications to interState research and innovation programmes of the European Union, including Horizon Europe);

57.4 socio-economic impact of project results (measures implemented at mid-term, concrete measures implemented at closure in line with the common (horizontal) objectives of the programme);

 57.5 information on the publication of project results in open access, as well as in repositories suitable for depositing research data (using FAIR - *Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable[[2]](#footnote-2)* principles);

57.6 other information as decided by the Commission.

**XII. Information and Publicity Requirements**

58 The project promoter undertakes to publish the project information (including on the project implementation, scientific group, activities and achieved results) on the project promoter’s website and undertakes to ensure that this information is maintained and updated according to the achieved project results for at least five years from the date of signing of the certificate of acceptance-delivery on project execution as laid down in Section 59.1.2 of the Cabinet Regulation, which is an annex to the project agreement.

59 The project promoter must in the manner and within the deadlines set in the project agreement:

59.1 provide information about policy recommendations to the Ministry of Education and Science;

59.2 provide information and recommendations to the Ministry of Education and Science on educational teaching methods and materials;

59.3 provide information proposals to other field ministries

for creating policy;

59.4 closely cooperate with line ministries in communicating and distributing project results;

59.5 provide information about the implementation of the project financed under the tender to the Council, which conducts the communication and public information activities on the implementation of the project financed under the call for proposals. The Council shall compile this information and make it available to the public. The project promoter shall cooperate with the Council and participate in public information and communication activities organised by the Council, including the production of project design material, content development and joint workshops on the progress of the project.

60 To promote the visibility of the project, the project promoter shall use the common graphic identity of the national research programmes[[3]](#footnote-3)as a basis and may additionally create a visual identity mark describing the project and including an abbreviation of the project name, which shall be consistent with the common graphic identity of the national research programmes. If the project’s established visual identity is used, it shall be used only in conjunction with the common graphic identity (or programme logo) of the national research programmes.

61 The project promoter and project partners (if applicable) shall refer to the name of the programme, the source of funding and the project number when carrying out public information activities, publishing scientific articles and other project results, participating in conferences or otherwise presenting project results and activities, or shall use the project’s visual identity mark as per Regulation Section 60.  "The Guidelines for publicity activities under FLPP and VPP projects" (approved by Council Order No. 13 from 14 April 2021) are available here: <https://www.lzp.gov.lv/lv/media/25/download?attachment>.

**XIII. Closing provisions**

62 Questions regarding the preparation and submission of the project application shall be sent to the following e-mail address no later than two working days before the deadline for submission of the project application: vpp@lzp.gov.lv. Answers to questions sent by a project applicant are sent electronically, frequently asked questions and answers are published on the Council’s website [www.lzp.gov.lv](http://www.lzp.gov.lv). Other questions about the implementation of the Programme should also be sent to the above-mentioned e-mail address.

63 Information on project applications approved by the Commission is published on the websites: [www.izm.gov.lv](http://www.izm.gov.lv) and [www.lzp.gov.lv](http://www.lzp.gov.lv).

Coordinated with the Ministry of Education and Science.

**Annexes**

**Annex 1** “Project Application”;

**Annex 2** “Methodology for the Preparation and Submission of the Project Application, the Mid-term Scientific Report, and the Final Scientific Report;

**Annex 3** “Methodology for the Evaluation of the Conformity of a Project Application with the Administrative Evaluation Criteria”;

**Annex 4** “Administrative Conformity Evaluation Criteria Form”;

**Annex 5** “Confirmation of Absence of Conflict of Interest and Respect of Confidentiality”;

**Annex 6** “Agreement on the Performance of the Expert-examination”;

**Annex 7**”Methodology for Carrying out the Expert -examination (Project application, Mid-term/Final Scientific Report)";

**Annex 8** “Individual/Consolidated Assessment Form for the Expert-examination of the Project Application”;

**Annex** **9** “Agreement on the national research programme “Education” project implementation”:

9.1 Annex “Project Application”;

9.2 Annex ” Breakdown of Funding”;

9.3 Annex “Recommendations for the Project Implementation”;

9.4 Annex “Calculation of the Value of Project Results as a Percentage of the Total Project Cost”;

9.5 Annex “Certificate of Acceptance-Transfer on the Implementation of the Project of the National Research Programme”

9.6 Annex “Plan for the Consolidation of Results”;

9.7 Annex “Financial Statement for the Implementation of the Project of National Research Programme of 20\_\_\_”;

9.8 Annex “Changes to the Contractual Amount up to 30% for a Project of the National Research Programme”;

9.9 Annex “Changes in the Scientific Group of a Project of the National Research Programme Exceeding 20%”;

9.10 Annex “Mid-term/Final Scientific Report Form of a Project”;

9.11 Annex “List of Results”;

9.12 Annex “Content Report”;

9.13 Annex “List of the Scientific Group”.

**Annex 10** “Individual/Consolidated Evaluation Form of a Mid-term/Final Scientific Report of the Project”.

**Annex 11** “Establishing, Maintaining and Implementing a Plan for Research Data Management”.

1. For more information, see here <https://www.lzp.gov.lv/lv/fundamentalo-un-lietisko-petijumu-projektu-2023-gada-atklatais-konkurss> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.lzp.gov.lv/lv/media/105/download?attachment> (see the introductory section of this page for the rest of the materials: <https://www.lzp.gov.lv/lv/valsts-petijumu-programma-vpp>) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)