

**Activity 1.1.1.2 “Post-doctoral Research Aid” of the Specific Objective 1.1.1
“To increase the research and innovative capacity of scientific
institutions of Latvia and the ability to attract external financing,
investing in human resources and infrastructure” of the Operational
Programme “Growth and Employment”**

Rules of the fourth selection stage of research applications

<p>Cabinet Regulations governing the implementation of the Activity of the Objective</p>	<p>Cabinet Regulations No. 50 of January 19, 2016, “On Implementation of Activity 1.1.1.2 “Post-doctoral Research Aid” of the Specific Objective 1.1.1 “To increase the research and innovative capacity of scientific institutions of Latvia and the ability to attract external financing, investing in human resources and infrastructure” of the Operational Programme “Growth and Employment” (hereinafter – Cabinet Regulation for the activity).</p>
<p>Financial conditions</p>	<p>The total eligible funding available for the Activity is 51,029,231 euros, including funding from the European Regional Development Fund (hereinafter – ERDF) – 43,374,846 euros, State budget co-funding – 5,136,885 euros, and national private co-funding – 2,517,500 euros. The total eligible funding planned for implementation of research applications is 47,913,758 euros, including ERDF funding – 40,726,694 euros, State budget co-funding – 4,669,564 euros, and national private co-funding – 2,517,500 euros.</p> <p>Within the scope of the fourth stage of selection of research applications the planned amount of funding for the implementation of research applications related to economic activity is 50 per cent of the total eligible funding envisaged in the fourth selection stage.</p> <p>The funding intended for the implementation of research applications not related to economic activity and application related to economic activity shall not exceed 20 per cent of the funding for the implementation of research applications not related to economic activity, or 10 per cent of the total eligible funding provided for in the fourth selection stage.</p> <p>The amount of funding planned for implementation of the fundamental research in all selection stages shall not exceed 20 per cent from the total eligible funding envisaged for the implementation of research</p>

	<p>applications.</p> <p>The total eligible funding available within the scope of the fourth stage of selection of research applications is 11,485,015 euros, including the planned total eligible funding for the research related to economic activity – 5,742,597,50 euros and for research not related to economic activity – 5,742,597,50 euros, of which 1,148,501.50 euros are planned for the implementation of fundamental research.</p> <p>If all funding planned within the scope of the relevant stage of selection of research applications is not acquired for implementation of the fundamental research it shall be redirected for implementation of research application related to economic activity.</p> <p>If all funding planned within the scope of the relevant stage of selection of research applications is not acquired for implementation of research applications related to economic activity the evaluation commission may decide on the redirection of the funding to the implementation of industrial research applications not related to economic activity.</p> <p>The maximum total eligible funding of a research application shall be 111,505 euros, but the maximum implementation period – 30 months, however, no later than before 30 June 2023.</p> <p>The research applicant shall start the implementation of a research application no later than within six months of adoption of the decision on the approval of the research application.</p> <p>The following costs shall be eligible within the scope of a research application <u>not related to economic activity</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the average costs of a post-doctoral researcher (personnel) are up to 2,731 euros per month and shall not exceed 32,772 euro per year, including State mandatory social insurance contributions and other social guarantees laid down in laws and regulations; – the units costs of research, including costs of purchase of materials, protection of technology rights and external services, costs of training and networking measures 800 euros per month. A certain part of the unit costs may be provided for payment of manhours for support/ technical duties, for example, data processing, considering also other planned costs to be covered from the unit costs amounting to 800 euros (per month); – unit costs for administrative and infrastructure
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resources of the research applicant used for ensuring implementation of the research application shall be 185.83 euros per month. Unit costs shall include office supplies, stationery and lease or purchase of office equipment, lease or rental of premises, utility payments and maintenance costs of premises (including covering in proportion of the costs for the use of common-use premises of an institution and common-use resources), costs of telecommunication, Internet and postal services; maintenance costs of information technologies; costs for aid of the research applicant and remuneration of the management personnel; costs which are not included in the costs referred to in Sub-Paragraphs 48.1 and 48.2 of the Cabinet Regulation for the activity, but are necessary for achieving the results of the research application.

The maximum eligible ERDF funding for research applications not related to economic activity shall not exceed 85 per cent of the total eligible funding of the research application and the necessary co-funding in the amount of 15 per cent of the total eligible funding of the research application to be provided in compliance with Paragraphs 42.1 and 42.2 of the Cabinet Regulation for the activity.

The following costs shall be eligible within the scope of a research application related to economic activity:

- personnel costs: researchers, technical and other support staff to the extent they are employed in implementation of the research application by complying with the aid intensity of the public funding;
- costs for tools and equipment to the extent and according to the time they are used for implementation of the research application;
- costs for contracted research, know-how and patents that are purchased or licensed from external sources under the condition of fair competition, as well as the costs for consultants' services and similar services used exclusively for the purposes of implementation of the research application;
- additional indirect costs and other operational expenses, including the costs of materials, accessories and similar products, incurred directly in the result of implementation of the research application;
- costs for obtaining, validating and defending patents and other intangible assets;
- operational costs of the teaching personnel and trainees directly related with implementation of the research application;

- costs of the trainee personnel and general indirect costs (administrative costs, rent, overhead costs) for the hours when trainees participate in trainings.

The permissible aid intensity of the public funding for implementation of industrial research related to economic activity shall be as follows:

- 70 per cent for a research applicant, which conforms to the definition of a micro or small enterprise;
- 60 per cent for a research applicant, which conforms to the definition of a medium-sized enterprise;
- 50 per cent for a research applicant, which conforms to the definition of a large enterprise.

The aid intensity of the public funding intended for the implementation of industrial research applications may be increased by 15 percentage points by per cent from the total eligible costs of the research application, without exceeding 80 per cent of the total eligible costs of the research application, if public access to the results of industrial research applications is ensured in at least one of the following ways – distribution of research results in technical and scientific conferences and publicly accessible depositories (databases), free-of-charge access to software.

Funding for the protection of technology rights and training may be received by a research applicant, which conforms to:

- the definition of a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise, if a research application related to economic activity is implemented. The permissible aid intensity of the public funding for aid to the protection of technology rights shall be 50 per cent;
- to the definition of the research organisation provided in Sub-Paragraph 2.11 of the Cabinet Regulation for the activity if a research application not related to economic activity is implemented.

Funding for the costs related to training may be received by a research applicant, which conforms to:

- the definition of a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise, if a research application related to economic activity is implemented. The permissible aid intensity of the public funding for training shall be as follows:
 - ✓ 60 per cent, if the research applicant conforms to the definition of a medium-sized enterprise, training is ensured to working persons with disability or employees in an unfavourable situation;
 - ✓ 70 per cent for a research applicant, which

	<p>conforms to the definition of a micro or small enterprise;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to the definition of the research organisation provided in Sub-Paragraph 2.11 of the Cabinet Regulation for the activity if a research application not related to economic activity is implemented. <p>Costs shall be eligible if they have arisen not earlier than: submission of the research application to the State Education Development Agency (hereinafter – the Agency) for research applications not related to economic activity and research applications related to economic activity.</p>		
The form of implementation of the selection of research applications	Open selection of project applications		
Term for submission of research applications	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">From 20 May 2020</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Until 20 July 2020</td> </tr> </table>	From 20 May 2020	Until 20 July 2020
From 20 May 2020	Until 20 July 2020		

I. Requirements to the research applicant and cooperation partners

1. A research applicant is a scientific institution or a micro, small, medium-sized or large enterprise registered with the Enterprise Register of the Republic of Latvia, which establishes employment legal relations with a post-doctoral researcher and ensures access to infrastructure and human resources for implementation of the research necessary within the scope of the research application.

2. The research application may be implemented individually or in partnership with a foreign or Latvian scientific institution, university or merchant (hereinafter – co-operation partner) which admits a postdoctoral student and provides access to infrastructure or human resources. The co-operation partner may gain economic advantages or intellectual property rights arising from the activities carried out in the framework of the co-operation partner's research application.

3. If the research application is implemented in partnership with a foreign or Latvian scientific institution, university or merchant, after approval of the research application, the research applicant and co-operation partner shall enter into a co-operation agreement, providing conditions for substantive, technical and financial co-operation, rights, obligations and responsibilities, as well as the ownership rights to the results of the research application (including intellectual property rights) in proportion to the contribution of each partner to the implementation of the research application, and access to the co-operation partner's infrastructure and other resources for the implementation of the research, as required under the research application.

4. In order to ensure timely selection of foreign experts, the research applicant is hereby invited to submit the following information in English to the Agency two weeks prior to the final term for submission of the research application provided for by the present Rules:

4.1. the name of the research institution where the research will be carried out;

- 4.2. the post-doctoral researcher's name, surname;
- 4.3. the field and sub-field of science of the research application, key words;
- 4.4. the title and the summary of the research.

Submission or failure to submit the above information shall not impact the results of the evaluation of the research application.

II. Aided activities and costs

5. In the fourth selection stage of research applications, the research applications contributes to achieving the goals of the Smart Specialisation Strategy¹ of the Republic of Latvia, implementation of the growth priorities or development of the specialisation areas. The highest score in the evaluation of the criteria "Impact" can get the research applications focused on the study of the impact of Covid-19 and the development of innovative solutions will be supported in the following topics:

- 5.1. solving public health issues;
- 5.2. development of electronics and information and communication technology solutions, including aimed at health, education, offices, e-government;
- 5.3. innovative solutions for business development and adaptation to the changing circumstances (eg., emergencies, climate change).

6. Within the framework of the research application the activities referred to in Paragraph 33 of the Cabinet Regulation for the activity shall be aided.

7. Costs in compliance with the stipulations of Paragraphs 41-55 and 58-63 of the Cabinet Regulation for the activity shall be planned in the research application.

III. Drafting and submission of a research application

8. The research application shall consist of the research application form and its supplements:

- 8.1. Supplement 1 "Timetable for the implementation of the research application";
- 8.2. Supplement 2 "Financing plan";
- 8.3. Supplement 3 "Budget summary of the research application";
- 8.4. Supplement 4 "Research project proposal" (in English);
- 8.5. Supplement 5 "Post-doctoral researcher's curriculum vitae (CV) (in English)";
- 8.6. Supplement 6 "Report on the financial turnover of the scientific institution <name> for year 20__ (according to the form attached as Supplement 1 of the selection rules "Research application form and its supplements");
- 8.7. Supplement 7 "Post-doctoral researcher's certification";
- 8.8. additional documents to be attached to the research application:
 - 8.8.1. an agreement between the research applicant and the post-doctoral researcher regarding the content of the research application, the conditions for technical and financial co-operation, the rights, obligations, and liability of the parties, the conditions for the use, introduction, publicity and marketing of results of the research application;

¹ Research, Technology Development and Innovation Guidelines 2014 - 2020. Website: <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/documents/4608>

8.8.2. certification of no double funding (according to the form attached as Supplement 1 of the selection rules “Research application form and its supplements”);

8.8.3. financial management and accounting policy of the research applicant;

8.8.4. a copy of the post-doctoral researcher’s diploma about obtaining a scientific degree of a doctor;

8.8.5. decision of the European Commission on the approval of the project submitted within the frame of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie action “Individual Fellowships” of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation “Horizon 2020” (if applicable);

8.8.6. a copy of the research application submitted within the frame of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie action “Individual Fellowships” of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation “Horizon 2020” (if applicable);

8.8.7. assessment of the research quality of the project by experts included in the database of experts of the European Commission (if applicable);

8.8.8. a justification regarding the stimulating impact of the public support planned within the frame of the research application in line with requirements contained in Article 6(2) and (3) of the Commission Regulation No.651/2014 (applicable if the planned research application implementation is related to economic activity);

8.8.9. a certification of the signatory that the undertakings that can exert an influence upon the research applicant, in the quality of shareholders or members, have no preferential access to the research capacity of the research applicant or the research results generated by it (applicable, if the implementation of a research application not related to economic activity is planned);

8.8.10. a Power of Attorney or an internal regulation of the institution attesting the authority to sign the research application (applicable if the research application is signed by a person who is not the Head of the institution or his/ her deputy);

8.8.11. the translation (if applicable);

8.8.12. the last annual report submitted in accordance with the requirements of regulatory enactments (applicable if a research application related to economic activity is submitted by a subject of private law);

8.8.13. an operational interim report not older than one month before the date of submission of the research application approved by a sworn auditor (applicable if the research application related to economic activity is submitted by a private legal entity).

9. Supplements to the research application shall be numbered in sequence by continuing the numeration of the mandatory supplements to the research application form. In addition to the above referred supplements, the research applicant may append other documents deemed necessary for high quality evaluation of the research application. It is recommended to submit documents both in Latvian and in English.

10. In order to ensure high quality completion of the research application form, the methodology of completing the research application form shall be followed (Supplement 2 to the Selection Rules).

11. The research applicant may prepare and submit the research application as follows:

11.1. as an electronic document by using an e-mail and signing the research application by a safe electronic signature containing the time stamp;

11.2. as a hard copy by placing the research application in an envelope and submitting it in person or by sending it by post;

11.3. in the POSTDOC information system.

IV. Procedure of drafting a research application

12. The research application shall be signed by the responsible person of the research applicant or by a person authorised by him/ her. The signatory rights of the person signing the research application shall be secured in compliance with the regulation provided for by regulatory enactments. If the research application is signed by a person authorised by the research applicant, a relevant documents regarding the authority provided for the relevant person shall be appended.

13. The research application shall be drafted in Latvian. If any of the sections of the research application form and Supplements 1-3 are in any other language, a translation in the state language shall be appended in compliance with the procedure prescribed by Cabinet Regulations No.291 of August 22, 2000, "On Procedure for Procedure for the Certification of Translations of Documents in the State Language" or certified by a notary.

14. Supplements 4 and 5 to the research application shall be submitted in English in compliance with Paragraph 23 of the Cabinet Regulation for the activity.

15. Amounts in the research application shall be specified in euros with 2 decimals.

16. If the research application is prepared in the form of an electronic document:

16.1. regulatory enactments on drafting electronic documents shall be complied with²;

16.2. the research application and additional documents submitted as a single file shall be signed by a secure electronic signature containing the time-stamp.

17. If the research application is submitted in the POSTDOC information system, the research applicant shall fill in the specified data fields and attach required supplements.

18. If the research application is prepared in the form of a hard copy in paper form:

18.1. regulatory enactments prescribing requirements for preparing and filing documents shall be complied with³;

18.2. one original copy (of the research application with supplements) shall be submitted, appending an identical electronic copy, providing documents in the DOC or DOCX and XLS or XLSX format on an electronic data carrier. Documents appended to the research application may be appended also in the format of PDF or

² Law on Electronic Documents, Cabinet Regulations No. 473 of 28 June 2005, "On Procedures for the Preparation, Drawing Up, Storage and Circulation of Electronic Documents in State and Local Government Institutions, and the Procedures by which Electronic Documents are Circulated between State and Local Government Institutions, or Between These Institutions and Natural Persons and Legal Persons".

³ Law on Legal Force of Documents, Cabinet Regulations No. 916 of September 28, 2010, "On Procedure for Preparing and Filing Documents".

JPG files. The electronic copy of the research application shall be identical to the original of the research application;

18.3. the pages of the original research application shall be numbered, bound and the number of pages shall be attested accordingly. Bulky supplements may be bound separately by stating in the research application that the relevant supplements (the title and the number of pages) are bound separately. Each separately bound document shall be attested on the back-side of the last page by the signature of the research applicant's signatory or a person authorised by him/ her;

18.4. the research application shall be prepared in computer print, pages may be printed/copied on both sides; chapters, paragraphs and sub-paragraphs of the research application shall not be modified and deleted;

18.5. if any of the supplements to the research application is a copy, true copy or extract of an electronic document in paper form, its correctness shall be certified in compliance with requirements of regulatory enactments.

V. Procedure for submission of research applications

19. The Agency shall announce the fourth open selection of research applications by publishing the notice on submission of research applications in the Official Journal "Latvijas Vēstnesis", in the portal of the European Commission "Euraxess" and on the website of the Ministry of Education and Science (www.izm.gov.lv).

20. A research application shall be submitted:

20.1. on business days from 8:30 to 17:00 at the Agency - Vaļņu iela 1, Riga. The receipt date stated by the Agency shall be deemed the date of submission of the research application;

20.2. by sending it by post. The date when the research application was delivered to the post office shall be deemed the date of submission of the research application. It is advisable to assure whether the research application is stamped by the postal stamp of the relevant date if the research application is delivered to the post office on the last day of the submission term;

20.3. as an electronic document by sending it to the e-mail address of the Agency: info@viaa.gov.lv. The moment when the Agency has received the research application shall be deemed the time of submission of the research application. Applications signed by an electronic signature shall be accepted via e-mail also on the day following the final submission term if they have been signed by a time stamp on the last submission date;

20.4. in the POSTDOC information system: <https://postdoc.viaa.gov.lv>. The person responsible for the research application or a person authorised by him/ her shall sign an agreement with the Agency regarding the use of the POSTDOC information system and receive the user's access to the POSTDOC information system prior to submission of the research application.

21. A research application shall be submitted by the end of the term for submission thereof. If a research application is submitted after the end of the term for submission of research applications, it shall not be evaluated and the research applicant shall receive the Agency's notification regarding the refusal to evaluate the research application.

VI. Procedure for evaluation of research applications

22. For the purpose of evaluation of research applications, the Agency shall establish the commission for evaluation of research applications (hereinafter - the Evaluation Commission).

23. There shall be nine members in the Evaluation Commission. Representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science as the responsible authority, representatives of line ministries and the Agency shall be included in the Evaluation Commission.

24. The Evaluation Commission shall work in compliance with the Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Commission approved by the Agency following approval by the Ministry of Education and Science.

25. In their work the members of the Evaluation Commission shall follow the regulatory enactments of the Republic of Latvia and the European Union and shall be held responsible for timely, impartial and careful evaluation of research applications in compliance with the evaluation criteria of research applications contained in Supplement 3 to the Selection Rules, as well as for maintenance of confidentiality.

26. The evaluation of the administrative, compliance and output indicator attainment promotion of research applications is performed by the Evaluation Commission in compliance with the unspecified criteria for the administrative evaluation of research applications, the specified criteria for administrative evaluation, the compliance evaluation criteria and the output indicator attainment promotion quality evaluation criteria (Annex 3 to the Selection Regulations) using the Guidelines and methodology for the evaluation of administrative, compliance and output indicator attainment promotion quality of research applications (Supplement 4 to the Selection Rules) by issuing an evaluation and comments justifying the evaluation in cases where the assessment is conditional or negative.

27. For the evaluation of the scientific quality of research applications the Agency shall organise the selection of experts included in the data base of the European Commission or an equivalent database of foreign scientific experts and performance of examination in compliance with the evaluation principles and approach of the European Union Framework Program for Research and Innovation "Horizon 2020" Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships, as well as the Guidelines for the selection of foreign experts within the framework of selection of research applications for Activity 1.1.1.2 "Post-doctoral Research Aid" of the Specific Objective 1.1.1 "To increase the research and innovative capacity of scientific institutions of Latvia and the ability to attract external financing, investing in human resources and infrastructure" of the Operational Programme "Growth and Employment", which were developed by the Agency and coordinated with the Ministry of Education and Science. Foreign experts shall use the guidelines and criteria of evaluation of the scientific quality of the research application (Supplement 5 to the Selection Rules), by issuing an evaluation and comments justifying the evaluation.

28. The total maximum score to be obtained for a research application after recalculation of coefficients shall be 3.8 score points, including 3.5 score points for

the evaluation of scientific quality and 0.3 score points for the evaluation of outcome indicator attainment promotion quality.

29. If the research applicant has submitted a research application for involving a foreign post-doctoral researcher which was submitted within the frame of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie action “Individual Fellowships” of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation “Horizon 2020” and its evaluation was above the quality threshold within the above evaluation of project applications, however it did not receive funding for the project implementation, the evaluation of administrative, compliance and output indicator attainment promotion quality shall be performed for these research applications and the scientific quality evaluation shall not be performed. For the purpose of determining the scientific quality the experts' opinion regarding the scientific quality of the project received within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie action “Individual Fellowships” of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation “Horizon 2020” shall be used.

30. If the post-doctoral researcher wishes to modify the project which was submitted within the frame of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie action “Individual Fellowships” of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation “Horizon 2020”, both the evaluation of administrative, compliance and output indicator attainment promotion quality and the scientific quality evaluation shall be performed for this research application.

31. The Evaluation Commission shall evaluate the research application at its meeting and shall decide on the approval, approval with a condition or rejection of the research application.

32. The decision of the Evaluation Commission shall be reflected in the decision of the Agency.

33. When the evaluation closes, the evaluation commission shall approve evaluation results, which are collected for approval/rejection in the lists of recommended research applications. The list of research applications recommended for approval/rejection shall be created separately for research applications related to economic activity and separately for research applications no related to economic activity, moreover, for research applications not related to economic activity separate lists should be created for the research applications envisaging industrial research and research applications envisaging fundamental research.

34. If a research application has been conditionally approved, the term set for complying with the conditions shall be stated in the decision of the Agency.

35. Following receipt of corrections to the research application by the Agency, the Evaluation Commission shall evaluate the corrected research applications based on the criteria for the compliance with which additional conditions were imposed and shall fill in the evaluation form of the research application.

36. If the research applicant does not comply with the conditions contained in the resolution on conditional approval of the research application or does not comply with them within the term defined in the resolution, the Evaluation Commission shall provide a repeated conclusion regarding conditional approval of the research application in compliance with the procedure defined in the Selection Rules. If any of

the conditions provided for in the repeated resolution of the Agency is not complied with or is not complied with within the term defined by the resolution the relevant research application shall be deemed rejected.

VII. Adoption of a resolution on approval, conditional approval or rejection of a research application and the procedure of announcement thereof

37. On the basis of the opinion of the Evaluation Commission, the Agency shall issue a resolution (hereinafter - the Resolution) regarding:

- 37.1. approval of a research application;
- 37.2. conditional approval of a research application;
- 37.3. rejection of a research application.

38. A resolution of approval of a research application shall be adopted, if the research application conforms to the criteria for the evaluation of administrative, compliance and output indicator attainment promotion quality of research applications and foreign experts have provided the evaluation of the scientific quality of the research application corresponding to no less than 3 score points before the recalculation of coefficients in each scientific quality evaluation criterion and after the recalculation of coefficients at least 2.3 score points in total, and there is sufficient funding for its approval in the respective selection stage.

39. A resolution on conditional approval of a research application shall be adopted if the research application does not conform to any of the criteria of the administrative and compliance evaluation of the research application that can be corrected, but foreign experts' evaluation of the scientific quality of the research application corresponded to minimum 3 score points before the recalculation of coefficients in each scientific quality evaluation criterion and after the recalculation of coefficients at least 2.3 score points in total, and there is sufficient funding for its approval in the respective selection stage. The research applicant shall implement the acts specified by the Agency in order to ensure that the research application fully conforms to the criteria for the evaluation of administrative, compliance and output indicator attainment promotion quality of the research application.

40. A resolution of rejected of a research application shall be adopted by the Agency, if foreign experts have provided the evaluation of the scientific quality of the research application corresponding to less than 3 score points before the recalculation of coefficients in any of scientific quality evaluation criteria or after the recalculation of coefficients less than 2.3 score points in total, or if the evaluation does not conform to the criteria for the evaluation of administrative, compliance and output indicator attainment promotion quality that cannot be corrected, or if there is no sufficient funding for the approval of the research application in the respective selection stage.

41. If a research application is rejected due to the lack of funding in the respective stage of selection of research applications, the research application shall be included in the reserve list for the next stage of selection. The reserve list shall be created in the order of evaluation separately for research applications related to economic activity and separately for research applications no related to economic activity, moreover, for research applications not related to economic activity separate lists should be created for the research applications envisaging industrial research and research applications envisaging fundamental research.

42. If a research application has been conditionally approved, the Evaluation Commission shall evaluate the corrections after their submission based on the criteria for the compliance with which additional conditions were imposed and provide a conclusion regarding compliance with the conditions. On the basis of the conclusion of the Evaluation Commission the Agency shall adopt a resolution:

42.1. on compliance with the conditions of the research application if all the conditions stipulated in the resolution have been complied with in the research application by means of implementing corrections;

42.2. repeated conditional approval of the research application if the conditions stipulated in the resolution on the conditional approval of the research application have not been complied with or have not been complied with within the stipulated term.

43. The Evaluation Commission shall evaluate the corrections after their repeated submission based on the criteria for the compliance with which additional conditions were imposed and provide a conclusion regarding compliance with the conditions. On the basis of the conclusion of the Evaluation Commission the Agency shall adopt a resolution:

43.1. on compliance with the conditions of the research application if all the conditions stipulated in the resolution have been complied with in the research application by means of implementing corrections;

43.2. on non-compliance with the conditions of the research application and rejection of the research application if the research applicant does not comply the conditions contained in the repeated resolution on conditional approval of the research application or does not comply with them within the term stipulated by the resolution.

44. The Agency shall prepare the resolution on approval, conditional approval or rejection of a research application and the conclusion regarding compliance or non-compliance with conditions in the form of an electronic document and notify it to the research applicant according to the procedure provided for by regulatory enactments. Information regarding the procedure on concluding an agreement shall be included in the resolution of approval of a research application.

45. Within the selection stage funding shall be granted to the research applications scoring the highest total point score for the compliance with the scientific quality evaluation criteria and criteria for the evaluation of output indicator attainment promotion quality.

46. If several research applications not related to economic activity have received an equal point score, those research application shall be supported as a priority, which received the highest point score in the scientific quality evaluation criterion "Excellence". If they have received an equal point score in the scientific quality evaluation criterion "Excellence", those research application shall be supported as a priority, which received the highest point score in the scientific quality evaluation criterion "Impact".

47. If several research applications related to economic activity have received an equal point score, those research application shall be supported as a priority, which received the highest point score in the scientific quality evaluation criterion "Impact". If they have received an equal point score in the scientific quality evaluation criterion "Impact", those research application shall be supported as a priority, which received

the highest point score in the scientific quality evaluation criterion “Excellence”. If they have received an equal point score in the scientific quality evaluation criterion “Excellence”, those research application shall be supported as a priority, which have envisage international mobility in their research application.

48. If any of the supported research applicants revokes its research application or does not sign an agreement on the implementation of the research application, the Evaluation Commission shall select from the reserve list that research application, which received the highest total point score for the compliance with the scientific quality evaluation criteria and criteria for the evaluation of output indicator attainment promotion quality, and shall propose to approve it:

48.1. a research application related to economic activity shall be replaced with the research application related to economic activity, which obtained the highest point score;

48.2. an industrial research application not related to economic activity shall be replaced with the research application, which obtained the highest point score and envisages industrial research;

48.3. a fundamental research application not related to economic activity shall be replaced with the research application, which obtained the highest point score and envisaged fundamental research.

49. Due to differences in the evaluation criteria for research applications, implementation deadlines and eligible themes for research applications, applications from the first, second and third selection stages that did not receive funding and were placed on the reserve list for subsequent research application stages, are not eligible for funding under stage four.

50. Information on an approved research application shall be published on the website of the Agency www.viaa.gov.lv.

VIII. Additional information

51. Questions regarding drafting and submission of a research application shall be sent to the e-mail address info@viaa.gov.lv. Answers to the questions submitted by research applicants shall be sent electronically. Questions shall be submitted latest 2 business days prior to the end of the term for submission of a research application.

52. The text of the draft agreement on implementation of the research application may be updated within the process of concluding the agreement if, upon a call for selection of the research applications of the specific objective all the regulatory enactments of the EU funds applicable to the conditions of implementation of the research application have not been approved (Supplement 6 to the Selection Rules).

Annexes:

Annex No. 1. Form of the research application and its supplements on 28 pages;

Annex No. 2. Methodology of completing the research application form on 34 pages with a supplement on 14 pages;

Annex No. 3. Criteria for the evaluation of administrative, compliance and output indicator attainment promotion quality of research applications on 9 pages;

- Annex No. 4. Guidelines and methodology for the evaluation of administrative, compliance and output indicator attainment promotion quality of research applications on 34 pages;
- Annex No. 5. Guidelines and criteria of evaluation of the scientific quality of the research application on 14 pages;
- Annex No. 6. Draft Agreement on implementation of the research application on 16 pages;
- Annex No. 7. Weight of the criteria of the fourth stage of selection of post-doctoral research applications on 1 page.

Approved by the Ministry of Education and Science on 21 May 2020.

Director

D.Traidās

I. Kurzemiece, 67814328