Regulations adopted by the FNP Board resolution no. 90/2026 dated 17 June 2026

Regulations of the BlueOcean FNP

§1. Programme objective

1. The objective of the BlueOcean FNP is to support the most radical and fundamentally novel scientific concepts with the potential to generate breakthroughs in areas of major importance to humanity.
2. The Programme exclusively funds blue-sky research, defined as research based on bold hypotheses or new models that diverge from existing paradigms.
3. Projects are not required to have application potential but must aim at conceptual advances of fundamental significance to our understanding of the world, life, or humanity.

§2. Scientific scope

1. The Programme is open to all scientific disciplines.
2. Projects must be entirely novel. While they may take inspiration from applicants' previous research, they must not derive from, expand upon, or build on that work.

§3. Eligibility of applicants

1. The applicant must be employed at the Polish research organization and must be a principal investigator (PI) of the project.
2. The applicant must fulfil the minimum publication requirement of at least two publications in journals ranked at or above the 90th percentile in their respective Scopus subject categories within the last five years, as a first or last author (the year of the publication is taken into account).
3. The publication requirement is only a qualification criterion; track record is not evaluated in Stage I, as applications are scored anonymously.

§4. Budget and duration

1. The maximum funding is 350,000 PLN per project.
2. The maximum project duration is 18 months.
3. Eligible costs include research-related and administrative costs (up to 10 per cent of the total budget). There are no specific budget categories, and the PI has full discretion over how to spend the funds, provided the purchase is necessary for carrying out the project.
4. The PI's salary is not eligible. The total salary budget may not exceed 15% of the total budget.

§5. Application

1. The Stage I proposal for must not exceed 1,500 words. It must include the project title and keywords (maximum 10), the main research question or hypothesis and a description of the idea, including justification of its radical novelty.
2. The application must be written in English.
3. The Stage II proposal comprises of: a) timeline and milestones including stages of the project and a description of tasks b) the PI's narrative CV demonstrating their ability to run a breakthrough project c) the planned budget categories.

§6. Evaluation procedure

Qualification stage

1. The FNP verifies compliance with all formal criteria, including the publication requirement.

Stage I: assessment of breakthrough potential (track record not evaluated)

1. The Programme Committee – PC (consisting of representative(s) of the FNP Executive Board and up to five external experts) screens all submitted projects and decides which of them will undergo the reviewers' evaluation.
2. At least three external reviewers assess each proposal.
3. Each reviewer scores the proposal in three categories: scientific soundness, radical novelty, and the significance of the potential discovery for humanity. In each category, a score between 1 (lowest) and 5 (highest) is awarded.
4. The Programme Committee decides which proposals go to Stage II. This decision is based on the reviewers' assessment.
5. Both the Stage I reviewers and the Programme Committee (PC) may prepare questions for the Principal Investigator (PI) to answer during Stage II of the evaluation.
6. Up to three times the number of projects to be funded will be selected to qualify for Stage II.

Stage II: interview with the PC

1. The PC in the Stage II evaluates: scientific excellence, originality and depth of reasoning, potential for a transformative discovery, expertise of the applicant, conceptual coherence and feasibility of the project, and the planned budget categories.
2. The PC recommends projects for funding to the FNP Executive Board.

§7. Project implementation and reporting

1. The project will be carried out in accordance with an agreement with the Foundation.
2. The Foundation may invite beneficiaries to present the current status of the project, including the major outcomes and any deviations from the original plan and aim.

3. The Foundation may decide to terminate or extend the project with or without changes to the project budget.
4. Foundation representatives and experts involved in assessing the project's progress must sign COI statements and confidentiality agreements.
5. There are two reports prepared by the PI:
    1. A presentation (as in point 2) before the midpoint of the project,
    2. Final report.
6. The final report must include all results obtained, including negative or unexpected outcomes, and a list of expenses. It must also refer to the initial breakthrough hypothesis. The project is considered successfully completed once the hypothesis has been rigorously tested and either **confirmed or rejected**.
7. Grant money is transferred in two equal instalments:

    1st tranche – at the beginning of the project,

    2nd tranche – after the mid-term presentation is accepted.

8. Intellectual property rights belong to the host institution in accordance with its internal policies.
9. Beneficiaries are expected to popularize the project and its results, including the funding sources.

§8. Final provisions

1. These Regulations take effect upon the announcement of the competition.
2. FNP reserves the right to amend the Regulations before opening the call.
3. The FNP Executive Board decides on matters not covered herein.