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Excellence Initiative – Research University. Schedule of planned calls

The ***Excellence Initiative – Research University*** (EIRU) programme includes 70 initiatives which are planned for 2020-2026; as a result, the University will become more internationally recognizable as an institution that undertakes ambitious academic projects and ensures active transfer between research results and teaching practices. Balanced development, both in scientific research and education programmes for students and PhD students, is of key importance.

Below you will find a schedule for the implementation of consecutive actions to be taken by the entire University, within the framework of the EIRU programme.

The next call will be opened on the 15th of June 2020! It will concern projects related to cooperation under the 4EU+ Alliance.

Information on the schedule for nominating other projects as part of activities which are not included in this announcement will be published in September of 2020.

Schedule of calls within the framework of activities planned under the EIRU programme and realized by the entire University in 2020.

June 2020

Action II.1.1 Mini-grant programme for interinstitutional research teams in the framework of strategic partnerships

The purpose of this project is to strengthen academic and research cooperation between the University of Warsaw and other institutions within the 4EU+ Alliance, as well as other strategic partnerships.

Mini-grants will be available to research teams comprised of researchers from the University of Warsaw and from at least one university with which the University of Warsaw co-operates intensely in a given field of research. Within one year of receiving a mini-grant, a team will be eligible for further support if its members submit an application for a grant to one of the competitions held under EU research programmes, or other programmes for financing scientifically advanced research projects, implemented within the framework of international consortia.

The first call for this activity will be opened on 15 June, and will concern cooperation under the 4EU+ Alliance. For this call it is necessary to establish a research team composed of at least three universities belonging to the Alliance, including the University of Warsaw.

Two calls are planned per year as part of this action.

Action III.3.2 Promotion of scientific research

The implementation of this project will enable an increase in the scale of promotion of the results of scientific research by University of Warsaw employees. The projects consolidated under this initiative will include, among other things, the organization of specially-prepared lectures, lessons and shows addressed to a variety of social groups; information in Polish and English on the scientific achievements of UW employees will be placed on popular scientific portals, and a promotional campaign will be created in the form of interviews and announcements in the Polish and English language press. It will also be possible to obtain funds for the organization of thematic scientific conferences with the participation of foreign guests, devoted to the scientific achievements of outstanding scientists from the University of Warsaw.

Two calls are planned per year as part of this action.

August 2020

Action IV.4.1 A complex program of support for UW PhD students – implemented as agreed with the PhD Students' Union

The action is intended for PhD students of doctoral studies and of doctoral schools. Its main goal is to support doctoral students during the preparation of their doctoral dissertations and in the dissemination of their research results, for instance through publications in internationally recognized journals and renowned publishing houses. As part of this action, a special study path will be available for PhD students planning to conduct research within one of the five Priority Research Areas (POB). Qualified persons in doctoral studies programs or in doctoral schools will receive special supplements to their scholarships and will implement elements of the study program which are directly related to POB.

Four calls are planned per year as part of this action.

Action VI.1 Strengthening and development of cooperation between the University of Warsaw and the Medical University of Warsaw in the federalisation process

The purpose of this initiative is to support cooperation between academics, administrative staff, PhD students and students from both institutions. The projects for which financing will be available include, among other things, the development of joint research projects, sharing research and teaching infrastructure, extending cooperation between Incubators, creating common lines of studies, and also supporting PhD student and student initiatives.

Two calls are planned per year as part of this action.

Action I.1.4 Implementation of the program of financing projects submitted under IF MSCA competitive calls within the EC initiative "Seal of Excellence"

The programme will secure the execution of research projects recognized for their research excellence by EC-appointed independent experts, under the Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships (IF MSCA) in the Horizon 2020 Programme, and in the future – Horizon Europe.

The implementation of this initiative will be an important signal to researchers from the University of Warsaw who apply for IF MSCA grants under the EU competitive calls that the University supports the execution of research projects rated very high in the international evaluation procedure, which did not receive funding from the H2020 program due only to financial constraints. If the project is ineligible for EU funding, but obtains at least 85% of the maximum number of points specified in the terms of the call and receives the so-called "Seal of Excellence" (SoE) from the EC, it may be financed from IDUB.

The financial side of the activity will be launched in 2021; however, the researchers from the University of Warsaw who submit their proposals to the call from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships in the H2020 Program in September 2020 will be eligible to apply for funds from IDUB, for the implementation of their projects having the SoE.

Up to three projects annually will be financed by EIRU.

September 2020

Action III.2.1 Courses of studies in Priority Research Areas – POBs (2nd cycle)

As part of this action, unique courses of studies will be created which will be dedicated to the subjects researched within the Priority Research Areas. The main purpose is to educate students who aspire to conduct future scientific research, either at the University of Warsaw or at other institutions. The character of the studies would be interdisciplinary and would combine subjects and methodologies from various scientific disciplines and fields. The students taking up such studies would be participating from the start of their education process in research projects implemented within and outside of the Priority Research Areas.

Two calls are planned for this action during the entire EIRU Programme. The second call will be held in 2022.

Action IV.5.2 Programme for young female researchers and teachers

The projects implemented as part of this action will deal with the issue of loss of engagement by women in their academic careers (women hold only 1/3 of the top academic positions at the University of Warsaw). Based on a diagnosis of the current situation, methodological and organizational solutions will be created for programmes of development, which will be implemented at the University of Warsaw in the future. The purpose of such programmes will be to counteract the underdevelopment among female teachers and researchers during particular phases of their academic careers. In addition, women taking part in the programme will receive financial support for planning and following individual paths of professional development.

Two calls are planned under this action during the entire EIRU Programme. The second call will be held in 2021. In each competition, 15 young female researchers and teachers employed at the University of Warsaw will be selected

Action I.1.1 / IV.1.1 Mentoring Programme

The purpose of this action is to enable outstanding researchers who were awarded for their scientific achievements, including Nobel Prize laureates and Fields medallists, to stay for a short period at the University of Warsaw. During their stays, the invited academics will meet with teams conducting research in their respective areas of study, familiarize them with their

work, and give lectures. Additionally, it is anticipated that individual mentoring meetings may be arranged.

Applications are accepted for this action on a continual basis. Specific projects are implemented based on an understanding between the researcher, the receiving entity, and the EIRU Programme Manager.

October 2020

Action IV.1.3 "From the Diamond Grant to the ERC grant" - creating individual plans for research career development

The purpose of this action is to ensure individual approach to career development of students, PhD students, and academics at the University of Warsaw. The key element is to enable a harmonious research careers by ensuring professional assistance in optimal planning of individual paths. In the framework of this action, advisors for research career development will be employed, whose task will be to assist researchers in identifying which of their competencies are missing or require augmentation, to advise them in terms of instruments available for financing their research activities, or to prepare an Individual Research Career Development Plan taking into account the requirements to be fulfilled by the candidates for IF MSCA scholars or ERC grant holders.

This action will also provide support for hiring employees with unique skills, who will assist PhD students and academics in the area of publishing their work in prestigious scientific journals and publications.

Two calls per year are planned for this action.

Action IV.2.3 Mobility of students and PhD students - as agreed with self-governing organizations of doctoral candidates and students

The main purpose of this action is to accept students and PhD students from other national and foreign institutions for periods necessary to carry out specific research tasks and also in supporting research trips of students and PhD students from the University of Warsaw to leading research centres in Poland and abroad. Within the framework of this activity, a scholarship programme shall be established to cover the costs of accommodation and participation in research/teaching process during a period of 3 to 6 months. The additional

result of this action shall be the strengthening of cooperation between the University of Warsaw and selected national and foreign institutions.

Two calls per year are planned for this action.

Action II.1.2 Establishing and strengthening cooperation with strategic partners

The purpose of this activity is to establish and strengthen strategic partnerships with academic centres of similar profile to that of the University of Warsaw. A strategic cooperation shall consist in creating joint scientific teams, joint operation research and teaching centres, as well as exchanges of research and administrative staff members. Double or joint graduation projects, including doctoral education, will also be possible.

Two calls per year are planned for this action.

Action II.4.1 Organizing world-wide high-level congresses

The purpose of this initiative is to organize unique conferences and congresses with international reach, under the auspices of prestigious associations or networks that gather eminent scientists of specific disciplines at the University of Warsaw. The key factor for increasing the international recognition of the University of Warsaw, including releasing the results of research carried out therein, will consist in reaching the widest possible group of researchers with those achievements, including the those renowned as world leaders in given fields. It may be assumed that conference-related events will create opportunities for University of Warsaw employees to establish scientific co-operation.

One call will be held per year for this action.

November 2020

Action I.1.3 Supporting foreign researchers applying for joint prestigious research grants with the University of Warsaw

The purpose of this action is to support foreign researchers who plan to carry out their research projects at the University of Warsaw, e.g., under the MSCA Individual Fellowships programme or in the framework of the grants financed by the European Research Council under the Horizon Europe programme. In the framework of this action the University of Warsaw shall

offer support in preparation of joint application as well as administrative assistance at the early application stage.

Two calls per year are planned for this action.

Action IV.2.1 Strengthening of the research potential of the scientific staff, in particular young scientific staff, with the purpose of achieving scientific excellence

Travelling mobility and the implementation of research projects at prestigious foreign institutions, particularly during the first years after obtaining a doctoral degree, are crucial in gaining professional experience and scientific autonomy. In the framework of this action, a scholarship programme will be launched which is related to different components of building the international prestige of the researchers, by supporting short-term and medium-term research internships to increase their publishability. Individual grants will include funds for returning from foreign internships. The assigned funds will allow young researchers returning from internships to create their own research teams, based at the University of Warsaw.

One call per year is planned for this action.

Action IV.2.2 Inclusion of talented young scientists in research teams

In the framework of this action a scholarship programme shall be established for the benefit of young researchers out of the University of Warsaw, aimed at covering costs of accommodation and participation in the research/teaching process for a period of 3 to 6 months at one of the selected units of the University of Warsaw. This will allow to initiate cooperation programs between the University of Warsaw and selected national and foreign institutions, thereby contributing to strengthened research activity and the position of the University of Warsaw.

One call per year is planned for this action.

December 2020

Competition for project packages for new research teams.

Project packages under the *Excellence Initiative - Research University* programme

In order to simplify administrative procedures related to the implementation of ideas that do not fit within the framework of a single action, the concept of project packages has been developed.

These packages may include projects selected from actions scheduled for implementation at the level of the entire University. In particular, these include mobility projects (outgoing and incoming researchers), administrative support, the inclusion of young scientists and also PhD students in research teams, the enlargement of research teams to include eminent researchers from other research institutions, and also support for publication.

The final list of actions to be eligible in the creation of project packages shall be announced in September of 2020. The budget of a single package shall not exceed the amount of 700,000 PLN. Five such packages are scheduled to be selected by the end of 2020, followed by another five in 2021.

The implementation of packages shall comply with the goals of the EIRU programme and indicate the form of achieving the ratios assumed within the framework of the programme.

The packages may be implemented by one or more University units. Multidisciplinary ideas covering various research areas will be preferred.

Two calls are planned for this action during the entire EIRU Programme. The second call will be held in 2021.

Open meetings on actions taken with the Priority Research Areas (POBs) and opportunities to join them will be held between 15 June 2020 and 15 July 2020.

Dates:

POB 1 - 30 June, 10:00-15:00

POB 2 - 1 July, 10:00-14:00

POB 3 - 2 July, 14:30

POB 4 - 23 June, 17:00-19:00

POB 5 - 10 July, 10:00-13:00

Please remember that on 01 June 2020, [the Rector's Ordinance no. 115 on the implementation of the Excellence Initiative - Research University programme at the University of Warsaw](#) was published.

EIRU is working!

From March onward, PhD students and the University of Warsaw employees may benefit from microgrants from the University of Warsaw. The main purpose of this internal grant system is to support development and increase the potential of researchers employed at the University of Warsaw, as well as PhD students. In the framework of the system, two actions are carried out: Microgrants, and Publishing Activity Support under the open access model. The activities financed by microgrants include the following:

- The organization of conferences by the University of Warsaw;
- Queries carried out in foreign scientific or institutions supporting the sciences (archives, libraries, databases, etc.);
- Publishing research papers in publications holding rights to input their titles into Scopus (EIRU microgrants may be used to finance the difference between the publishing costs and the planned return on sales);
- Study visits at prestigious foreign scientific institutions, including universities, to intensify scientific cooperation;
- Preliminary studies aimed at preparing a grant project to be carried out at the University of Warsaw and financed from external sources;
- Proofreading by a native speaker of a chapter in a monograph or a scientific paper accepted for publication by a journal.

EIRU support may be used twice a year but not sooner than when a previous project has been positively completed. The precondition for granting aid is permission from the Dean of the University of Warsaw for carrying out the task, and confirmation of the unit's own contribution to the organization of a conference by the University of Warsaw, financing publications, study visits or preliminary studies. Applications for microgrants may be submitted on a continual basis. [Detailed information on the rules of application.](#)

Another form of support launched in the framework of the internal system of grants for researchers employed at the University of Warsaw and PhD students is the access path to the COVID-19 research funds. This funding path is dedicated to financing actions that enable to establish or finetune a research project to be submitted to one of the institutions funding scientific research in

Poland or abroad. The rules for applying are similar to those applicable to financing preliminary studies for other research projects in the framework of EIRU, and the maximum financing in case of this path amounts to 15,000 PLN. [Detailed information on the rules of application.](#)