



## Pre-Announcement for 5<sup>th</sup> Call for two interdisciplinary **Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Call for Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland will be issued in April 2026.

The Dioscuri Programme aims to strengthen international standards of scientific excellence in Central and Eastern Europe and to support the on-going scientific transformation processes in the EU-13 countries. The person-centered programme was initiated by the Max Planck Society (MPS) and is jointly managed by MPS and the National Science Centre Poland (NCN). Funding for the programme is provided by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR), funding for the Centres of the 5th call is provided by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW) through the National Science Centre Poland.

### Eligible applicants

The 5<sup>th</sup> Call for two **interdisciplinary** Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland is directed at internationally competitive and scientifically outstanding **scientists** from **all scientific disciplines and all nationalities**, who have proven their ability to conduct innovative research independently, who:

- completed their PhD no longer than 15 years prior to the application deadline;
- have proven international mobility over the course of their scientific career;
- pursued their PhD and Postdoc(s) at different research institutions;
- who have not been employed at the Host Institution during the last three years prior to the application deadline;
- is able to propose excellent interdisciplinary proposal (10 pages excl. references and budget plan) with significant impact on two out of the three domains:

**Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts (HSS)**

**Life Sciences (LS)**

**Physical Sciences and Engineering (STEM)**

- will closely cooperate with a scientific partner from Germany of its choice from a German research institution;
- will establish an international Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to his or her Dioscuri Centre.

## Funding and structure of the Dioscuri Centres

Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland established under the 5th call are funded with up **to € 300,000 p.a. each for an initial five years and can be extended for another five years after successful external evaluation.**

Dioscuri Centres will be **embedded within the structures of the Polish Host Institution (HI)**<sup>1</sup>, which will contribute to the Centre both financially and infrastructurally by

- providing additional funding of EUR 25,000 per annum;
- providing administrative support, and access to the necessary research equipment;
- providing necessary office and/or lab space;
- providing additional full-time employment for a program coordinator with administrative and research management responsibilities.

No overheads costs are foreseen for HI under the programme. An invitation for Polish research institutions to submit proposals for the establishment of Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence will be launched in mid-March 2026, accompanied by a series of informational meetings.

## Important dates

- The 5<sup>th</sup> Call for two interdisciplinary Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland with its full documentation will be published **mid-April 2026**.
- The **application** must be submitted **until 15 September 2026**.
- **The invitation** for Polish research institutions to submit proposals for the establishment of Dioscuri Centres of Scientific Excellence will be launched in **mid-March 2026**.
- Series of online information meetings will be organized in the period of **Mid-April** until **mid-June 2026**.

## Contact details

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<sup>1</sup> Eligible as **Host Institutions** are such Polish universities and research centres, which comply to article 27 of the Act on the National Science Centre, <https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20100960617>.