

Poland in the ESRF - a new grant from the Ministry of Education and Science

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The European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) is an international research infrastructure located in Grenoble (France) financed by the contributions paid by 21 countries. Poland uses this infrastructure as a Scientific Associated Member since 2004 with a contribution of 0.6 % and from 2006 of 1% of the infrastructure budget. Polish contribution to the ESRF is possible thanks to the grants from the Ministry of Education and Science led by the *National Consortium of Scientific Institutions Interested in the Use of the European Synchrotron Radiation Source in Grenoble*. The new grant approved by the Ministry started officially in April 2021 and will end in March 2026.

The National Consortium was established in 2006 and integrates research groups from different scientific disciplines. Presently it consists of 20 scientific institutes. The aim of the National Consortium is to ensure the effective use of access to the ESRF by providing information on the conditions of access to the source and assistance in writing proposals for scientific research. However, participation in the Consortium is not necessary to perform research at the ESRF. A research project can be submitted by any researcher affiliated in the Polish scientific institute, alone or in collaboration with scientists from other countries. In the new grant the scientists can also apply for a conference scholarship to present their results of the experiments performed at the ESRF. Information about the Consortium, conference scholarships, news on current ESRF workshops, webinars and deadlines as well as list of publications with Polish authors can be found on the grant website:

http://www.ifpan.edu.pl/esrf/Local_Publish/

The project proposals can be submitted to the ESRF twice a year: by 1 March and by 10 September. The scientific project is evaluated by the International Peer Review Committee in regard to the scientific merit. To get access to the ESRF beamlines it is necessary to prove that experiment cannot be performed at any other facility. Next, the allocated beamtime is adjusted regarding to the contribution of a given country to the ESRF budget. It is important to realize that in case of collaboration with scientists from other countries the percent of the beamtime is divided proportionally between the countries depending on the affiliation of the scientists given as co-proposers.

Access to the beam for researchers from the ESRF Consortium countries is covered by contributions paid by individual countries. In addition, the travel and subsistence expenses of the 3 researchers conducting the experiment are also paid. Scientific projects that are granted the beamtime receive technical and other necessary assistance during the preparation and conduct of the experiment. Research results should be published in scientific journals. It is essential that all scientists with Polish affiliation presenting results of their experiments performed by themselves or in collaboration have to acknowledge the grant of the Polish Ministry of Education and Science - decision no. 2021/WK/11.