EEA financial mechanism and Norway financial mechanism 2014-2021 programme "Research and Education"

Baltic Research Programme

Latvian Open Call for Proposals in 2020

Thematic priorities and topics*

1. **Public health; e- health**

The research projects in the thematic area should contribute to knowledge about disease prevention and patient-centered health care system.

The research proposal must be focused on at least one of the following topics:

- Population based studies on health behaviors (alcohol and drug use and addiction; physical activity, sedentary lifestyle and diet; and mental health) and implications for disease prevention;
- E-health and integrated care;
- Cardiovascular disease and cancer prevention, their personalized and patient-centered care.

2. **Migration; social inclusion**

The thematic area contributes to exploring migration processes and tackling challenges that arise from migration, as well as studying other challenges and topics related to social inclusion and equality:
- The study of social inclusion involves identifying patterns and trends of social inequality in a broad perspective, e.g. economic inequality, inequality of education, inequalities between geographic areas or minority and majority groups, as well as exploring causes and consequences of these patterns;
- Research proposals can investigate third country migration into EEA/EFTA countries, as well as inter-EEA/EFTA migration;
- Migration between the Baltic countries and Scandinavia is an area of special interest.

Proposals on migration are encouraged to not only explore and identify solutions for challenges which arise from immigration, but also challenges around emigration such as brain drain and depopulation.
Proposals should aim to deliver policy impact via policy recommendations and other pathways.

3. **Cyber security; public security**
Thematic area of cybersecurity and public security will contribute towards research challenges surrounding resilient public and private infrastructure (especially critical infrastructure) and

overall safety of digital life in EEA/EFTA countries especially for protecting people against malicious cyber activities.

The research proposal must be focused on at least one of the following topics:

- Proposals on cybersecurity should explore questions surrounding data protection and safety of online activity for public and private institutions and society in general;
- Proposals in public security should be focused towards research to optimize the functionality of different emergency services and the criminal justice system.

4. Regional economic development; employment, labour market regulations and social policy

In the context of urbanisation, emigration and ageing society, the economically lagging regions experience decline of their populations, low productivity growth and a strain on their social services. The research proposals should focus on at least one of following topics:

- addressing the challenges of societal and economic transformations in regions in the context of declining and ageing population and low productivity growth;
- delivering quality social services and implementing viable and equitable labour market policies;
- solutions for increasing the prosperity of regions, comparatively examining social policies, labour market policies and their effects on individuals and households.

The use of advanced quantitative methods using a wide range of available datasets (e.g. big data) is encouraged.

5. Innovative solutions for efficient and sustainable use of resources

This thematic area addresses how to tackle global issues of energy efficiency, decarbonization and more responsible use of resources. Research proposals should focus on materials, technologies, digital solutions and socioeconomic aspects in at least one of the following topics:

- Efficient urban energy systems (buildings, industry, services, transport and mobility).
- Renewable energy for local energy systems.
- Alternative fuels for transport and heating.
- The development of waste-to-resource (can refer to any kind of waste, e.g. food, materials, water – and technological solutions converting it into a new resource).
- Safe and sustainable food systems.
- Sustainable management of water and aquatic resources.

Evaluation criteria might be changed according to the Regulations adopted by the Cabinet of the Ministers