

Government Decree 344/2019 (XII. 23.)

on the National Research, Development and Innovation Office and on the designation of the managing body of the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund

The Government, acting within its original legislative powers as defined in Section 15 (2) of the Fundamental Law, and, with regard to Section 2, based on the mandate granted in Section 43/A of Act LXXVI of 2014 on Scientific Research, Development and Innovation, and

acting within its powers under Section 15 (1) of the Fundamental Law, hereby decrees as follows:

1. Legal status of the National Research, Development and Innovation Office

Section 1

The National Research, Development and Innovation Office (hereinafter referred to as the “Office”) is a central budgetary body operating as a central office under the direction of the Minister responsible for the coordination of science policy.

Section 2

The Office shall be the managing body of the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund (hereinafter referred to as the “Fund”).

2 Organisation and operation of the Office

Section 3

(1) The Office shall be headed by a President, who shall perform the representative and other tasks entrusted to him/her by the Minister responsible for the coordination of science policy in matters of research, development and innovation. The President is assisted by Vice Presidents.

(2) The Minister responsible for the coordination of science policy shall appoint and dismiss the President of the Office and, on a proposal from the President of the Office, the Vice Presidents of the Office. The term of appointment for both the President and the Vice Presidents shall be five years. The same person may be appointed as President or Vice President of the Office no more than twice.

Section 4

The President of the Office shall report to Parliament on the activities of the Office and on the use of the appropriations of the Fund by 15 June of the year following the year in question, and shall provide information to the committee of Parliament with competence upon special request.

3 Tasks of the Office

Section 5

(1) The Office shall perform the following tasks under the direction of the Minister responsible for the coordination of science policy:

a) participates in the preparation of the Government’s decision on its research, development and innovation strategy and contributes to its implementation,

b) performs the tasks related to the Fund which are not assigned by law to the Minister responsible for the coordination of science policy,

c) in its capacity as a body managing research, development and innovation funding programmes financed by the Fund

ca) publishes the call for proposals approved by the Minister responsible for the coordination of science policy, and organises and conducts the evaluation and decision-making process in accordance with the call for proposals,

cb) issues funding documents and concludes funding agreements,

cc) monitors and controls funded projects,

d) prepares the decision of the Minister responsible for the coordination of science policy on the granting of domestic public funding from the Fund on the basis of an Act, government decree, government decision, international treaty or individual funding request,

e) contributes to certain tasks related to its research, development and innovation resources following the closing of the Economic Development Operational Program co-funded by the European Union,

f) carries out the tasks relating to budget support for the innovation-related objectives of the operational programmes, which fall within the competence of the policy officer and which are delegated to it by the Minister responsible for science policy coordination as the policy officer,

g) performs the technical tasks of international and European integration-driven cooperation in the field of research, development and innovation,

h) contributes to the utilisation and coordination of foreign research, development and innovation support provided to Hungary,

i) contributes to the research, development and innovation objectives of the European Union, in particular by fulfilling the national duties related to the European research, development and innovation framework programme,

j) fulfils the tasks related to international scientific and technology cooperation arising from legal obligations or international agreements,

k) facilitates the innovation activities of micro, small and medium enterprises to increase their competitiveness,

l) performs background analysis, evaluation and concept development for the programme strategy and planning of national research, development and innovation funding programmes, including the Fund, and monitors and assesses the funding programmes,

m) supports the organisation of conferences, exhibitions and publications directly related to research, development and innovation, the development of electronic information databases and libraries, and the award of prizes in the field of research, development and innovation,

n) in order to strengthen the innovation performance of the research, development and innovation sector and to increase the effectiveness of applicants, provides innovation services, in particular by promoting cooperation in the research, development and innovation sector, liaising with professional organisations, promoting application activity and innovation awareness, and establishing and operating a market support expert network,

o) contributes to the Government's tasks related the support and promotion of student excellence, talent management and teacher and researcher excellence and, to this end, operates the Secretariat

of the National Council of Student Research Societies in accordance with the Act on national higher education.

p) fulfils the tasks of the Secretariat of the National Science Policy Council,

q) contributes to the renewal of the content of higher education courses and adult education courses offered by higher education institutions, under the direction of the Minister responsible for education and adult education, with regard to the tasks and competences related to higher education.

(2) In respect of grants of domestic public funding, the Office may conclude agreements to fulfil the tasks related to

a) accepting project proposals,

b) providing data related to the evaluation of project proposals,

c) preparing and concluding funding documents and funding agreements based on the model documents,

d) monitoring the implementation of projects,

e) receiving and formally checking the reports,

f) recording application data and ensuring that the related database is up-to-date and reliable.

(3) The Office shall cooperate with the member of the Government concerned, under the direction of the Minister responsible for the coordination of science policy, in the framework of the development and strengthening of international and European integration cooperation in the field of research, development and innovation policy, and shall

a) provide technical support to the Government's international science and technology policy activities;

b) contribute to the preparation of intergovernmental scientific and technology agreements and coordinate their implementation;

c) participate in directing the activities related to the diplomacy of science and technology;

d) participate in the Government's activities related to the development of the European Research Area;

e) contribute to the Government's tasks related to research, development and innovation within the framework of the rights and obligations arising from European Union membership;

f) act as a representative in international scientific and technological organisations and initiatives;

g) as part of its duties, cooperate with the foreign representations of Hungary and maintain contact with foreign representations and partner institutions operating in Hungary and abroad, especially the official bodies of the European Union.

(4) The President of the Office may lay down the detailed rules for the performance of the tasks specified in Subsection (3) in an agreement with the member of the Government concerned.

(5) In the performance of its tasks, the Office shall cooperate with the ministers competent in the sectoral research, development and innovation activities, the relevant public administration bodies,

the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Secretariat of the Eötvös Loránd Research Network and other organisations and institutions engaged in research, development and innovation.

(6) The President of the Office may, through the Minister responsible for the coordination of science policy, initiate the drafting and amendment of laws relating to the Office's tasks.

4 Closing provisions

Section 6

This Decree shall enter into force on 2 January 2020.