

There has been announced a new programme financed by the Foundation for Polish Science called "Homing". The aim of the **HOMING** programme is to improve the human potential in the R&D sector by financing breakthrough projects designed as postdoctoral fellowships, carried out by young doctors (postdocs) from all over the world (regardless of nationality), with a special focus on the return to Poland of outstanding scientists of Polish descent, at research units, working in the most innovative areas.

Eligible applicants are those young doctors (regardless of nationality) who have had a **doctoral degree for not longer than 5 years**, where the start of this period is defined by the year of obtaining the degree and the end – by the year preceding the deadline for submitting applications in the competition. The 5-year period may be extended to a maximum of 9 years from obtaining the degree on the terms set down in the competition documentation.

At the same time, the applicant has to fulfill all of the following conditions:

- Having stayed outside Poland uninterruptedly for at least 9 months for the purpose of conducting scientific research;
- Intending to come to Poland no later than on the project's starting date, or having come to Poland no earlier than in the year preceding the deadline for submitting applications in the competition.

Project can last up to 24 months.

Financing under the **HOMING** programme will be provided to projects which show significant application potential or importance for solving a major socioeconomic problem. Basically, projects to be carried out under the **HOMING** programme should involve research that will contribute to solving current or arising scientific problems that are relevant for the developing global market or will make a significant contribution to solving important challenges faced by society today. A project may also involve R&D work on a new product or production process (technological or manufacturing) of significant importance for the economy, based on an identified product, technology or buyers' market for the given product or technology. Support under the programme should enable researchers at the start of their scientific careers, particularly young postdocs, to gain experience in conducting R&D work of significant importance for the economy and society.

The deadline for submitting applications is very short: **24 March**.

As regards remuneration for the PHD fellow (based on an employment contract), the suggested remuneration under the programme for working full-time on the project is:

PLN 17,500/month (approx. 3900 EUR – taxes included)