



Annexe for Franco-Swiss projects

Lead Agency Procedure (ANR)

Generic Call for Proposals 2017

IMPORTANT

The evaluation of Franco-Swiss projects will be carried out solely by ANR, as detailed in the General Call for Proposals, **available here:** <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/AAPG2017>, as well as the provisions of this document.

It is essential to carefully read Work Programme 2017, the Generic Call for Proposals, ANR's Regulations for allocating grants (<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/RF>), as well as this entire document before submitting a research project proposal.

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1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF COOPERATION WITH SWITZERLAND

By developing bilateral agreements with foreign funding agencies, ANR enables researchers to initiate or intensify their collaborations. Such cooperation fits into its plans to foster and give rise to outstanding teams in Europe and throughout the world.

Bilateral agreements are designed to support innovative bi-national projects which break away from existing national projects and show seamless synergy between both countries' teams and genuinely integrated joint research.

In order to simplify and streamline working arrangements, create frontier-free research funding areas and aid in the construction of the European Research Area (ERA), ANR and FNS have forged a new Lead Agency-type partnership.

An agreement was signed between ANR (*The French National Research Agency*) and FNS (Swiss National Foundation in French, *Fonds National Suisse*) making it easier to set up and implement high-quality scientific projects jointly proposed by French and Swiss research teams.

The two agencies alternate years handling project submission, evaluation and selection in accordance with their individual procedures. For 2017, **the submission and evaluation of project proposals will be handled by ANR**. However, the Swiss scientific coordinator and other partners from the Swiss side must provide FNS with certain administrative information, according to that agency's own terms.

The "Lead Agency" procedure has been continued for 2017, applying to the selection of Franco-Swiss PRCIs "International Collaborative Research Projects". Under the procedure, a joint text is prepared by research teams and evaluated by a single agency, the Lead Agency, which manages projects evaluation and selection. These transnational projects compete with national projects submitted to the agency conducting evaluation. The partner agency has access to all project-related information. Each agency funds its respective national teams¹ according to its own procedures.

The purpose of the partnership between ANR and FNS is to support projects demonstrating effective collaboration between Franco - Swiss partners. Partners will ensure that each country provides equitable contributions and scientific inputs. The same will apply to grant applications made to agencies. French and foreign partners should strive to align projects' start and end dates.

2. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The bilateral agreement with Switzerland covers all research fields funded by ANR and FNS.

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The French and Swiss partners will prepare a joint scientific project. Each country's teams must designate a **national scientific coordinator**.

ANR is in charge of submission and evaluation for both countries.

¹A French team is a partner having an establishment or branch in France.

French partners:

Projects will be submitted under “PRCI: International Collaborative Research Projects” funding instrument of the ANR’s Generic Call for Proposals 2017 .

Foreign partners:

It is essential to check the need to provide a copy of the project proposal or any other additional document to the foreign agency.

- <http://www.snf.ch/fr/encouragement/mesures-complementaires/lead-agency/france/Pages/default.aspx>

3.1. EARLY REGISTRATION OF PROPOSALS WITH ANR

French scientific coordinators must register their intention to submit a PRCI project on ANR’s submission site by the deadline, **27 October 2016** at 1 p.m. (Paris time). **Registration is mandatory** (see [section C](#) in the General Call for Proposals) for participation in the selection process, but no pre-proposal is required at this stage.

International Project proposals must comply with the rules on format and content set out in the Generic Call for Proposals text (see [section C.1](#)). **Foreign partners** must be clearly identified in the online form.

The estimated amount of funding being applied for by **French partners and foreign partners** to their respective national agencies **must be provided** using the online form.

Please note: in the event where one or more foreign partners abandon their participation between the registration of an “International Collaborative Research Project” (PRCI) and the submission of a full proposal, it will not be possible to change the funding instrument given that other funding instrument (PRC, PRCE, JCJC) are subject to a two-stage selection procedure).

The project acronym and title provided to each agency **must be identical**.

The choice of acronym and name of the French coordinator are final and cannot be changed when submitting the full proposal.

3.2. SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS TO ANR

French PRCI partners registered by the deadline indicated in paragraph [C.2](#) will be invited to submit full proposals to ANR, together with applicants to the PRC, PRCE and JCJC funding instruments selected at the first stage’s outcome.

Writing in English is highly recommended, as evaluation is carried out within a bilateral cooperation with the foreign agency. If a scientific document is drafted in French, a **translation** may be requested.

The French coordinator should be **listed as scientific coordinator** on the ANR submission site, with the foreign coordinator listed as “**country referent**”. The French coordinator shall be subject to the rules (incl. eligibility) applicable to all national scientific coordinators under the Generic Call for Proposals (see [section C.3](#) of the Generic Call for Proposals).

The full proposals for international projects must comply with the rules on format and content set out in the the Generic Call for Proposals text (see paragraph C.2.3).

Administrative and financial information related to foreign partners must be clearly filled in on the website at the time of submission.

The following is the minimum information required concerning foreign partners: the name and address of the institution², its category (public/private), the address where research is carried out, and information concerning the foreign coordinator (country referent), filled in using the online form. The amount of funding requested by foreign partners must also be stated in the online form.

Furthermore, applicants must absolutely provide the following information in the scientific document:

- **The scientific contribution of the foreign teams;**
- **Financial data, broken down by item of each expenditure for both foreign partners and French partners.**

Finally, applicants are requested to provide a summary table for each French and foreign partner (with amounts indicated in each national currency and their equivalents in euro, if necessary):

- The total amount of expenditures;
- The amount of funding requested from each funding agency (ANR, FNS).

The following table is to be included in the full proposal scientific document’s preamble as a summary of persons involved:

Country	University or institution	Last Name	First name	Current position	Role in the project	Involvement (person.months) *
				Professor?	Coordinator? Task number?	
				Technician?	Task number?	
				Postdoc to be hired in the framework of the project?	Task number?	

(* to be indicated with respect to the total project duration)

² Partner as a legal person

4. ELIGIBILITY OF FULL PROPOSALS

Each agency decides on projects' eligibility according to its own rules. For foreign agencies with separate eligibility criteria, partners are strongly recommended to read the text for the call published by Swiss Agency.

- <http://www.snf.ch/fr/encouragement/mesures-complementaires/lead-agency/france/Pages/default.aspx>

ANR verifies the full proposals' eligibility taking into account both the criteria set out in the 2017 Generic call for proposals **Section C** and described below:

- 1) The estimates duration of the project must be the same for both countries' partners.

These eligibility criteria apply in addition to those of the foreign agency (must be verified with foreign agency).

5. EVALUATION

Projects proposals are only evaluated by ANR, ensuring that the same criteria is used for all projects under General Call 2017. The specific criteria for international collaboration detailed in paragraph **C.4** are also taken into account.

The foreign agency may propose experts who ANR may call upon for project evaluation. The foreign agency has access to all information relating to projects and their evaluation.

ANR will subsequently provide its foreign counterpart with a list of projects to fund from those which passed the selection process. The two agencies then jointly validate the list of projects to be funded.

6. FUNDING PROVISIONS

Each agency will cover expenditures for their respective country's teams **according to its own rules**. ANR's funding regulations are available at: <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/RF>

7. CALENDAR

- ANR website proposal registration closure date: 27 October 2016 at 1 p.m. (Paris time)
- Submission of full proposals to ANR: early April 2017
- Joint decision and publication of results: September 2017 (**indicative date**)
- Tentative project launch time: year-end 2017/adjustable depending on foreign partners' constraints