

Annex for Franco – HK Projects

Non-Lead Agency procedure

Generic call for proposals 2020

IMPORTANT

The evaluation of the Franco-HK projects will be carried out in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Generic Call for Proposals **2020**, available at following address:

<https://anr.fr/fr/detail/call/appel-a-projets-generique-2020/> to which are added the provisions of this document.

It is essential to carefully read Work Programme 2020, the Generic Call for Proposals, ANR's Regulations for allocating grants (<https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>), as well as this entire document before submitting a research project proposal

In case of any difference of interpretation, the French version of the present annex shall prevail

ANR contacts:

aapg.adfi@anr.fr: questions about the administrative and financial arrangements

aapg.science@anr.fr: questions about the scientific aspects of the proposal submitted

aapg.si@anr.fr: difficulties encountered when entering data or during document submission on the website

RGC contact:

All inquiries should be addressed first to the Research Offices of the respective universities. Without a response from them, the names of the RGC correspondents of Research Offices appear at the bottom of the page below (point 24):

https://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/funding_opport/anr_rgc_jrs.html

1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF COLLABORATION WITH HONG KONG

By establishing bilateral agreements with foreign funding agencies, the French National Research Agency (ANR) allows French researchers to initiate or extend their collaborative work with researchers from other countries. In this way it hopes to encourage the emergence of European and international teams of excellence.

The aim is to fund innovative bi-national projects that clearly stand out from on-going national projects, demonstrating great synergy between each country's teams and real integration of joint research.

ANR (*Agence Nationale de la Recherche*) and RGC (*Research Grants Council*) have decided to enter into a partnership to facilitate the setting up and implementation of high-quality scientific projects proposed jointly by French and HK research teams and to set up borderless research funding areas. As part of this agreement, the agencies of each country evaluate the proposals and fund their national teams¹ for selected projects, according to its own procedures.

The purpose of the partnership between ANR and RGC is to support projects in which there is genuine² collaboration between Franco-HK partners. Within this framework, partners will ensure that each country provides equitable contributions and scientific inputs. The same applies to agencies' grant applications. Insofar as possible, the French and foreign partners' projects must start and finish on the same dates. Please note that the RGC's authorized durations are 36 and 48 months only.

2. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The bi-lateral agreement with Hong Kong is open to all disciplinary fields funded by ANR and RGC with the **exception of the topics related to security**.

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

French and HK partners must prepare a joint scientific project. Teams from each country must each appoint a **national scientific coordinator**.

The project must be submitted in parallel to the respective funding agencies.

French partners:

Projects are submitted within the framework of the "International Collaborative Research Project" process (PRCI) in ANR's 2020 generic call for proposals.

Foreign partners:

It is essential to comply with the foreign agency's procedures, submission format, eligibility rules and opening and closure dates.

¹ A French team is a partner with an institution or branch in France.

² Jointly defined objectives, sharing of skills and tasks, sharing of risks and results

3.1. EARLY REGISTRATION OF PROPOSALS WITH ANR

The French Scientific Coordinator must **register his/her intention to submit a "PRCI" project** on ANR's submission website before 1pm (Paris time) on **24 October 2019**. **This registration is mandatory** (cf. §B.4. in the AAPG2020 Guide) for participation entitlement in the selection process. No pre-proposal is required at this stage.

To register an intention to submit a Franco-HK PRCI project, the applicant must complete the online form, the content of which is detailed in the AAPG2020 Guide §B.4.1. *Submitting pre-proposals (PRC/PRCE/JCJC instruments) and PRCI registering*). **Foreign partners** must be clearly identified in the online form.

In the online form, **a distinction must be made** between the provisional amount of grant requested by **French partners** and the provisional amount of grant requested by **foreign partners** from their respective national agency.

Note: *if a foreign partner decides to withdraw from the project between the time a PRCI is registered and the time the full proposal is submitted, it will not be possible to change the funding instrument as there are two stages to the selection procedure for the other funding instruments (PRC, PRCE, JCJC).*

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

The acronym chosen and the name of the French coordinator are definitive and cannot be modified when the full proposal is submitted. This also applies to the choice of the scientific evaluation panel (cf. AAPG2020 Guide, §B.4).

3.1. SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS TO ANR

French PRCI project applicants registered before the 24 October 2019 at 1 pm (Paris time) deadline will be invited - subject to certain eligibility conditions - to submit a full proposal to ANR together with applicants to the PRC, PRCE and JCJC funding instruments selected at the first stage's outcome.

Applicants are **strongly advised to write their proposals in English** as the evaluation is carried out in bi-lateral collaboration with the foreign agency. If the scientific document is written in French, a **translation** may be requested.

On the ANR submission website, the French coordinator must be listed as **the scientific coordinator** and the foreign coordinator must be listed as the **country's referent**. The French coordinator is subject to the rules (including eligibility) that apply to all national scientific coordinators under the Generic call for proposals (see AAPG2020 Guide §B.5.2, *Eligibility of full proposals*).

The full PRCI proposals must comply with the rules regarding format and content set out in the AAPG2020 Guide (cf. §B.5. *Stage 2: full proposal submission and evaluation procedures*). Financial and administrative information on the foreign partners must be clearly indicated when the proposal is submitted on the website.

The minimum information expected concerning foreign partners is: the name of the Institute³, its category (private / public), and the information concerning the foreign coordinator (country referent). Only the amount of requested funding by foreign partners must be stated in the online form (via simplified entry only).

³ Partner as a legal person

Moreover, it is essential that applicants indicate the following information in the scientific document:

- **the foreign teams' scientific contribution;**
- **foreign partners' financial data broken down into items of expenditure,** in the same way as that of French partners.

Finally, applicants are requested to provide a summary table for each French or foreign partner (with amounts indicated in each of the national currencies and their equivalent in Euro):

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

The following table must be included in the preamble to the scientific document in the full proposal as a summary of the 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 frame of the project?	Task number?	

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

4. ELIGIBILITY OF FULL PROPOSALS

Each agency decides on the eligibility of a project in accordance with its own rules. As foreign agencies have their own eligibility criteria, applicants must carefully read the call text published by the RGC: https://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/funding_opport/anr_rgc_jrs.html

ANR verifies the eligibility of the full proposal taking into account the criteria detailed in the AAPG2020 Guide (cf. §B.5.2 *Eligibility of full proposals*) and the criteria detailed below:

- The provisional duration of the project proposal must be the same for the two country partners. Projects of 24 and 42 months length are excluded.

In addition to these eligibility criteria are the criteria of the foreign agency (**to be checked with the foreign agency**).

In particular, the institutional quota of a maximum of 5 projects per Hong Kong institution/university (pre-selection by the institute/ university of the foreign applicant).

5. EVALUATION

The projects are evaluated in parallel by ANR and by the foreign agency according to their own evaluation procedure. Each project is thus evaluated on both sides. The evaluation by the ANR is carried out according to the same main criteria used for projects submitted as part of another funding instrument within the generic call for proposals 2020, with nevertheless some specific sub-criteria for the PRCI funding instrument, including one related to the ability of the project to address the research issues covered by the chosen scientific theme⁴ (*cf. AAPG2020 Guide § B.5.3. Evaluation of full proposals*).

Concerning the specific sub-criterion " Balance and complementarity of the scientific contributions by respective partners in each country and added value/benefit for France from this European or international cooperation" of the criterion 3 " Impact and benefits of the project", the economic context of the countries partners are taken into account.

Next, ANR and the foreign agency decide on the projects to fund jointly from those selected by the two selection processes specific to each agency.

6. FUNDING PROVISIONS

Each agency provides funding for the relative expenditure of its own country's teams **according to its own rules**.

The ANR funding rules are available at this address <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/financer-votre-projet/reglement-financier/>

7. SCHEDULE

- Closure of proposals registration on the ANR website: 24 October 2019 at 1 pm (Paris time)
- Closure of full proposals submission on the ANR website: 24 March 2020 at 1 pm (Paris time)
- RGC schedule: it is essential to consult the website of the Hong Kong agency: (please note that the call text should be published by the end of September / beginning of October; the closing date at the RGC will be fixed three working days after the deadline for the ANR's full proposals submission)
- Joint decision and publication of the results: **Septembre** 2020 (indicative date)
- Possible project start date: final quarter 2020 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints.

⁴ New evaluation sub-criterion