

Annex for the Franco-Quebecers projects

Lead Agency (ANR) procedure

Generic call for proposals 2021

IMPORTANT

The evaluation of the French-Quebecers projects will be carried out by the ANR only, in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Generic Call for Proposals 2021 (AAPG) **available [here](#)** to which are added the provisions of this document.

It is essential to read carefully the work programme 2021, the generic call for proposals 2021, the AAPG 2021 guide, the rules relating to ANR funding allocation procedures (<https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>) and all of this document before submitting research project proposals.

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 project proposal

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

FRQSC contacts:

Concours.ANR-FROSC@frq.gouv.qc.ca

FRQSC's website :

<http://www.frq.gouv.qc.ca>

1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF COLLABORATION WITH QUEBEC

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.

To simplify and streamline the terms of collaboration and to set up borderless research funding areas, ANR and FRQSC (*The Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture*) have decided to enter into a Lead Agency type of agreement. Within this framework, the teams from the two countries prepare a joint project and one single agency (the Lead Agency) takes charge of the whole evaluation process (peer review and scientific panel evaluation) of the projects. Transnational projects compete with the national projects of the agency carrying out the evaluation. The partner agency can access all information on the projects. Each agency provides funding for its national teams¹ according to its own terms.

The Lead Agency procedure established between the ANR and the FRQSC recognizes the ANR as the "Lead Agency" for the evaluation and for the selection of the Franco-Quebecers PRCI projects.

As a result, the submission and evaluation of project proposals **are solely handled by the ANR**. Nevertheless, the Quebecer scientific coordinator and the other partners of the Quebecer party must provide certain administrative information to the FRQSC, according to the terms and conditions specific to this agency.

The purpose of the partnership between ANR and FRQSC is to support projects in which there is genuine²collaboration between Franco- Quebecers partners. Within this framework, partners will ensure the complementarity of the scientific contributions of each country and the added value of International cooperation. Insofar as possible, the French and foreign partners' projects must start and finish on the same dates.

For your information, FRQSC requires **36 months** project duration.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The bi-lateral agreement with Quebec is open to the following disciplinary field :

Innovation, work, cognition, education and training, in particular :

- Education in the digital era : didactic and pedagogical challenges, practical issues and perspectives
- The circular economy in partnership with cities: challenges and opportunities

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

² Objectives defined jointly, shared skills and tasks, shared risks and results

2. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

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

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

French partners:

Projects must be submitted within the framework of the "International Collaborative Research Project" process (PRCI) in ANR's 2021 Generic call for proposals.

Foreign partners:

No additional document is required from the FRQSC

2.1. 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 **December the 1st 2020**. **This registering with ANR is mandatory** (cf. §B.4. In the AAPG 2021 Guide) to be entitled to take part in the selection process. No pre-proposal is required at this stage.

To register an intention to submit a Franco-Quebecers PRCI project, the applicant must complete the online form, the content of which is detailed in the AAPG2021 Guide (cf. §B.4.1. *Submitting pre-proposals (PRC/PRCE/JCJC instruments) and registering (PRCI instrument)*). **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 one or more foreign partners decide to withdraw from the project proposal 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 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. AAPG2021 Guide, §B.4).

2.2. SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS TO ANR

French PRCI project applicants registered before the 1st December 2020 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 *AAPG2021 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 *AAPG2021 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 following information concerning foreign partners must be provided: the name of the institution³, its category (private/public) and information concerning the foreign coordinator (the country's referent) must be indicated on the online form. The amount of funding requested (through **the simplified entry**) by foreign partners from their respective national agency must also be indicated on the online form.

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 partners⁴.

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

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

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

³ Partner as a legal person

⁴ With regard to the sub-criterion "Adequacy of the resources implemented and requested for the objectives of the project" of criterion 2 "Organization and implementation of the project", the resources mobilized and requested by the French partners AND by the foreign partners will be assessed.

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)

3. ELIGIBILITY OF FULL PROPOSALS

Each agency decides on the eligibility of a project in accordance with its own rules.

ANR verifies the eligibility of the full proposal taking into account the criteria detailed in the AAPG2021 Guide (cf. §B.5.2 *Eligibility of full proposals*) and detailed below:

- The project's planned duration must be the same for both countries' partners

As foreign agencies have their own eligibility criteria, it is necessary to comply with them. The FRQSC rules can be found at the following adresse : [Règles générales communes](#) page 5, section "Status et rôles"

Summary table of the *specific eligibility criteria*⁶

Country (agency)	Submission to the ANR	Submission to the foreign agency	Duration	Participation of a company ⁵	Other
Québec (FRQSC)	yes	no	36 months maximum	ANR eligible FRQSC not eligible	

To be eligible, proposals must meet all of the eligibility criteria of the two funding agencies.

⁵ Cf. definition in ANR's Regulations for allocating grants

⁶ In addition to these eligibility criteria are the criteria of the foreign agency (to be checked with the foreign agency).

4. EVALUATION

Projects proposals are evaluated by ANR only. They are evaluated according to the same main criteria as for the projects proposals submitted within the framework of another funding instrument of the Generic call for proposals 2021, some sub-criteria are specific to the PRCI instrument (cf. *AAPG 2021 Guide, §B.5.3. Evaluation of full proposals*), **in particular related to the project's capacity to respond to the research challenges of the chosen scientific axis**⁷.

The foreign agency can suggest external reviewers that ANR may call upon for project evaluation. The foreign agency has also access to all information relating to the projects and their evaluation.

Applicants are informed that under this bilateral agreement, the FRQSC will provide Quebecers partners with maximum funding of around CAD \$ 200,000 (or approximately € 139,000) per project over a three-year period. Applicants are invited to present projects that justify ANR funding to French teams for a maximum indicative total amount of € 200,000, including for fundamental research projects.

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.

5. 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/>

6. SCHEDULE

- Closure of proposals registration on the ANR website: 1st December 2020 at 1 pm (Paris time)
- Closure of full proposals submission on the ANR website: end of April 2021
- Joint decision and publication of the results: October 2021 (indicative date)
- Possible project start date: final quarter 2021 – January 2022 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints.

⁷ New sub-criteria