

2021 Work Programme

Generic Call for Proposals

2021 AAPG Guide*

Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Funding Guidelines

* In case of any difference of interpretation, the French version of the present document shall prevail.

Applicants are advised to carefully read the entire document as well as the full-text version of the [2021 AAPG](#) and the [Regulations concerning the conditions of allocation of ANR funding](#) before submitting research project pre-proposal, registration or proposal.

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A. Context of the 2021 Generic Call for Proposals

A.1. Objectives of the Generic Call for Proposals

The [2021 Generic Call for Proposals](#) (2021 AAPG) is the “Research and Innovation” component of ANR’s [Work Programme 2021](#).

2021 AAPG is directed towards all scientific communities and all public and private¹ players involved in French research, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and very small enterprises. It is designed to give researchers in various scientific fields access to co-funding in a large number of research themes (applied or not) in addition to their allocated recurrent funding.

The AAPG applies to all types of research (fundamental research, industrial research and experimental development).

The “Research and Innovation” component of ANR’s Work Programme 2021, which supports the 2021 AAPG, has been structured into 50 research themes:

- 37 research themes spanning 7 scientific areas:
 - Environmental sciences
 - Energy and materials science
 - Life sciences
 - Humanities and social sciences
 - Digital sciences
 - Mathematics and its interactions
 - Physics of Matter, High Energy, Planetary and Universe sciences.
- 13 research themes covering cross-disciplinary challenges and incorporate issues from various scientific fields.

Each theme corresponds to a dedicated scientific evaluation panel (CES) within the AAPG. The panels dealing with cross-disciplinary or interdisciplinary themes include members who cover all required disciplines.

The project coordinator chooses the panel which will evaluate the proposal during stage 1 (submission of the pre-proposal for PRC, PRCE and JCJC instruments or registration for the PRCI instrument) and this choice cannot be modified during the process.

The “Research and Innovation” component also supports, within the Generic Call for Proposals, the implementation of the French state’s government work programmes and strategic priorities for 2021.

¹ The European Regulation on state aid for research, development and innovation uses the terms Enterprises, Research organisations and knowledge spillovers to qualify funding beneficiaries. (see [Regulations concerning the conditions of allocation of ANR funding](#)).

Each priority or government work programme is reflected in one or more of the scientific themes of ANR's Work Programme and its Generic Call for Proposals²:

- Artificial intelligence
- Humanities and social sciences
- Quantum technologies
- Autism as part of neurodevelopmental disorders
- Translational Research on Rare Diseases
- Production of biodrugs

- Cooperation within French-German research projects

In addition, the 2021 AAPG is implemented in the context of an unprecedented epidemic with major impacts on all the society. The mobilisation of France's scientific communities in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences is expected for all scientific themes of the Generic Call for Proposals (cf. [2021 AAPG](#) text, Annex 2: Potential positioning of projects and themes of interest (non-exhaustive list) under the Covid-19 priority).²

For the special mechanisms "*Very large research infrastructures (TGIR)*", and "*Competitive clusters*", see [Annex 3](#) to this document.

A.2. Funding instruments

There are four funding instruments in the Generic Call for Proposals divided into two categories:

- The "**Collaborative Research**" category proposes three instruments: "Collaborative Research Projects" (**PRC**), "Collaborative Research Projects involving Enterprises" (**PRCE**), and "International Collaborative Research Projects" (**PRCI**).
- The "**individual**" category solely concerns the "Young Researchers" instrument (**JCJC**).

The expected impact and characteristics of these different funding instruments determine the key points in the selection and are summarised in Table 2.

A.2.1. International Collaborative Research Projects (PRCI)

The "International Collaborative Research Projects" (PRCI) funding instrument is specific to bilateral collaborations between **at least one French research body** (a knowledge spillover and research organisation or facility laboratory eligible for ANR funding) **and at least one foreign partner (eligible for funding from a foreign funding agency that has signed a bilateral agreement with ANR)**.

For PRCI type projects, there should be a strong synergies between partners from both countries, with complementary scientific contributions from French and foreign partners. This means:

² Complementary budgetary guidance will be provided for cross-disciplinary, strategic and French-German priorities (mentioned in this document) and the implementation of government plans, as was the case for previous editions of the AAPG. The same will apply to the Covid-19 priority.

- **Both the French and foreign scientific coordinators being clearly identified** and both being actively involved in coordinating the project³;
- A work programme showing well-balanced scientific contributions by partners from each country;
- A description of resources showing well-balanced financial contributions⁴ by partners from each country.

Under the 2021 Generic Call for Proposals, the countries covered by these international bilateral agreements are likely to be:⁵

- In Europe: Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland.
- Worldwide: Brazil, Canada-Quebec, United States, Hong Kong, Russia, Singapore and Taiwan.

Dedicated annexes, specific to each bilateral agreement, describe open themes⁶ and any special submission, eligibility and selection procedures. These annexes will be available on the ANR web page dedicated to the [2021 Generic Call for Proposals](#) and **must be consulted before any projects are registered or submitted to ANR** or to the foreign funding agency.

If they have no foreign partner seeking funding from an ANR partner agency, applicants with collaborations based on this type of partnership are requested to choose the PRC or PRCE funding instrument.

For some international agreements, a “Lead Agency” procedure is set up. Project evaluation is entrusted to one single agency (the “Lead Agency”), which deals with appraising and evaluating projects.

PRCI for which ANR is the Lead Agency

For 2021, the ANR acts as the Lead Agency for PRCI projects involving collaboration with **Germany (DFG), Austria (FWF), Brazil (FAPESP), Canada ANR– Quebec (FRQSC), the United States (NSF – Physics from Molecules to Cells), Luxembourg (FNR) and Switzerland (FNS)**. Therefore, these projects must be registered with (stage 1) then submitted to (stage 2) ANR, by selecting the “PRCI” instrument, according to the conditions described below. The registration and subsequent project proposal submitted by the French coordinator must clearly indicate who the French and foreign partners are and must identify the French scientific coordinator and the foreign one (as country’s referent).

³ If the consortium includes several French partners, one of these partners must be declared as the coordinating partner. If the consortium includes several foreign partners, one of these partners must be declared as the coordinating foreign partner.

⁴ The economic situation of the countries and the partners is taken into account.

⁵ The list of countries covered by the PRCI instrument has yet to be confirmed at the time of publication of the 2021 AAPG and the 2021 AAPG Guide; please refer regularly to the [2021 AAPG web page](#) to see the final list.

⁶ Proposals submitted under the PRCI instrument must be suitable for the research themes defined in the bilateral agreement between the two countries and detailed in [the specific annexes](#) – and with the selected scientific theme, see the evaluation sub-criterion specific to PRCI projects § B.5.3.

Foreign partners may have to provide the foreign agency with some administrative information and some documents (copy of the project proposal for example). Applicants must refer to the specific annex for the agreement in question, once available on the [2021 Generic Call for Proposals](#) web page, and on the foreign agency's website.

Any PRCI projects not registered with ANR at stage 1 will not be allowed to submit a proposal at stage 2. The ANR will communicate to partner agencies a list of registrations made via its website for their respective projects.

PRCI for which a foreign agency is the Lead Agency

For PRCI projects involving collaboration with **the United States (NSF – Mathematics and Digital Sciences)**, the foreign agency acts as the Lead Agency. Therefore, these projects must be submitted to the foreign agency according to the specific procedure for this agency. The proposal submitted by the foreign coordinator must clearly indicate who the French partners are and must identify the French scientific coordinator.

It is not necessary to register an intention to submit a proposal with ANR if the Lead agency is a foreign agency.

*The French scientific coordinator and other partners must **provide ANR with administrative information and a copy of the project proposal** submitted to the foreign agency in accordance with a specific schedule (not the AAPG schedule). **If a copy of the project proposal for a PRCI project is not submitted to the ANR website, the proposal will be rejected by the foreign agency and not evaluated.***

Applicants must refer to the specific annex for the agreement in question, once available on the [2021 Generic Call for Proposals](#) web page, and on the foreign agency's website.

Non-Lead Agency PRCI

For PRCI projects involving collaboration with **Brazil (FACEPE), Hong Kong (RGC), Russia (RSF), Singapore (NRF) and Taiwan (MOST)**, proposals must be submitted to both funding agencies in question according to the schedule and the submission procedures of each agency. The ANR submission is a two-stage process: project registration during stage 1 (selecting the PRCI instrument), then submission of a full proposal during stage 2, according to the conditions described below and in the specific annex for international collaboration.

Both funding agencies evaluate the proposals in parallel. Both proposals must:

- **Describe a common scientific project;**
- **Have the same acronym, title and duration;**
- **Clearly indicate the French and foreign partners and provide the details of the French and foreign scientific coordinators (as “referent pays”).**

Projects must be submitted to the foreign agency in accordance with this agency's own procedure. Applicants must refer to the specific annex for the agreement in question, once available on the [2021 Generic Call for Proposals](#) web page, and on the foreign agency's website.

The final selection of PRCI projects is conducted **jointly** by both agencies based on evaluation elements gathered by the Lead funding agency under the “Lead Agency” procedure, or by both funding agencies under the “Non-Lead Agency” procedure. Each agency then funds its own country’s teams according to its own funding and monitoring procedures.

Table 1: Draft list of bilateral agreements and themes under the 2021 Generic Call for Proposals*

Countries (agencies)	Collaboration themes	Lead Agency	Evaluation panels involved**
Brazil (FACEPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics and digital sciences • Humanities and social sciences • Materials • Engineering, chemistry, physics • Environment and biological resources 		01; 02; 03; 04; 06; 07; 08; 10, 20; 21; 23; 24; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29, 30, 32; 33; 34; 36; 38; 40; 41; 42; 43; 45; 46; 47; 48; 49
Brazil (FAPESP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics and digital sciences • Humanities and social sciences • Materials • Engineering, chemistry, physics • Environment and biological resources 	ANR	01, 02, 03, 04, 06, 07, 08,10, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49
Canada – Quebec (FRQSC)	Social innovations in view of demographic changes and the future of working in the digital era	ANR	26
United States (NSF)	• Physics from Molecules to Cells	ANR	09; 11; 12; 13; 30; 45
	• Mathematics and digital sciences (subject to conditions)	NSF	23; 24; 25; 33; 40; 45; 46; 47; 48
Hong Kong (RGC)	All disciplinary fields funded by ANR and RGC		All except 39
Russia (RSF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics • Humanities – Cultural heritage • Covid-19 pandemic 		30; 31 27 35
Singapore (NRF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials, nanotechnologies, nanosystems • Information and communication technologies, including quantum technologies and artificial intelligence • Applications of digital technologies to health, sustainable mobility, sustainable and resilient cities and the industry and factory of the future 		08; 09; 10; 18; 19, 22; 23; 24; 25; 33; 38; 42; 45; 46; 47; 48
Taiwan (MOST)	All disciplinary fields funded by ANR and MOST		All except 39
Germany (DFG)	All disciplinary fields funded by ANR and DFG, except social sciences and humanities***	ANR	All except 26, 27, 28, 36 & 41
Austria (FWF)	All disciplinary fields funded by ANR and FWF	ANR	All
Luxembourg (FNR)	All disciplinary fields funded by ANR and FNR	ANR	All
Switzerland (FNS)	All disciplinary fields funded by ANR and FNS	ANR	All

* If applicable update available from the [2021 AAPG web site](#)

** Evaluation panels: cf. § F "Scientific fields covered by the 2021 Generic Call for Proposals" of the [2021 AAPG text](#). Each scientific theme corresponds to a Scientific Evaluation Panel (CES).

*** Social sciences and humanities are subject to a specific ANR-DFG call for proposals (Fr-All SHS)

A.2.2. Collaborative Research Projects involving Enterprises (PRCE)

The funding instrument “Collaborative Research Project involving Enterprises” (PRCE) concerns **effective collaboration between at least one French research body (a knowledge spillover and research organisation or facility laboratory eligible for ANR funding) and at least one French company conducting research and development in France**. This collaboration attempts to yield findings that are advantageous to both parties by enabling public research bodies to address new research issues or address them differently, and by enabling companies that conduct R&D to access high-level public research in order to improve their innovation capacities over different periods.⁷

A project is considered to be carried out through effective collaboration when at least two independent parties, both of which aim to exchange knowledge or technology, or to pursue a common objective based on a division of labour requiring the parties to jointly define the scope of the collaborative project, contribute to its implementation and share all related financial, technological, scientific and other risks and results.

The terms and conditions for PRCE project implementation, in particular as regards contributions to its costs, sharing of risks and results, the dissemination of results, rules on the allocation of intellectual property rights and access to them, must be concluded before the start of the project in a consortium agreement⁸.

The provision of research services is not considered a form of effective collaboration. Therefore, companies that are simply providers of technology or services to a project cannot be identified as partners within a PRCE, but can be listed as potential service providers to one of the partners.

Collaboration with companies not conducting research and development (SATT, etc.) or with partners whose category⁹ cannot be established without in-depth analysis of their economic activity (for example: associations, foundations, technical centres, etc.) is possible but not sufficient to take part in the PRCE instrument. If there are no companies conducting research and development in France, consortia involving such partners are asked to choose another funding instrument.

Any foreign partners¹⁰ involved in a PRCE participate with their own funds.

A.2.3. Collaborative Research Projects (PRC)

The Collaborative Research Project (PRC) funding instrument is ANR’s main funding instrument. It includes all forms of cooperation other than those concerned by the PRCI and PRCE instruments (see Table 2).

The collaborative nature of a given project is not estimated based on the number of partners involved alone, but their skills and know-how implemented to achieve the project’s objectives. On this basis,

⁷ Pursuant to the rules on State aid for research and development and innovation (see [Regulations concerning the conditions of allocation of ANR funding](#)).

⁸ See data sheet on the [ANR website](#)

⁹ Research organisation or Company, as defined in the [Regulations concerning the conditions of allocation of ANR funding](#)

¹⁰ "Foreign Partner" refers to any partner who does not own an establishment or branch in France.

if projects offer a special set-up in terms of a remarkably original scientific feature, multidisciplinary groups or teams from the same laboratory or organisation may submit single-partner projects that could be considered as collaborative.

Therefore, the collaboration may include any national or international, public or private teams or groups provided that there is **at least one French research body (a knowledge spillover and research organisation or facility laboratory eligible for ANR funding)**.

The simple provision of technologies or services to conduct a project is not considered a form of collaboration. Therefore, such suppliers cannot be identified as partners in a PRC but can be identified as potential service providers for one of the partners.

The participation of companies conducting research and development in a PRC is possible, but limited to forms of collaboration that cannot be described as effective collaboration. Effective collaborations with companies conducting research and development are asked to choose the PRCE instrument.

Any foreign partners¹¹ involved in a PRC participate with their own funds.

A.2.4. Young Researchers Projects (JCJC)

The objective of the JCJC funding instrument is to prepare the new generation of talented young researchers to become the future leaders or directors of French scientific research. This involves encouraging young researchers to take responsibility by tackling scientific or technological barriers using innovative approaches.

It therefore allows young researchers to act **independently in scientific research, explore their own research theme, form or consolidate their own team** dedicated to this research theme inside and outside their laboratory, **acquire a project-based research culture** and unleash their innovative talents.

It is also a springboard for young researchers who, thanks to initial support from ANR, will consider submitting a proposal in response to calls from the European Research Council (ERC).

As the instrument **targets individuals, funding granted by ANR may only cover the expenditures relating to the young researcher's team**. On this basis, only **one single partner can benefit from the grant**. This partner must be a **French research body (a knowledge spillover and research organisation or facility laboratory eligible for ANR funding)**.

For the JCJC instrument, the notion of "team" allows for collaboration within the same research organisation or facility or the laboratory as the coordinator and does not exclude collaboration with scientists from other research organisations, facilities or laboratories. Identifying collaborators that use their own funds in a project shall then be justified by their contribution of skills to achieve the scientific objectives of the proposed project and the objectives of the JCJC instrument.

¹¹ "Foreign Partner" refers to any partner who does not own an establishment or branch in France.

To be classified as “Young Researchers”, applicants **must have defended their doctoral thesis** (or obtained any degree or qualification equivalent to an international PhD) **less than 10 years ago** (i.e. after 1 January 2010).¹²

*Despite this, young researchers eligible for the JCJC instrument (who have defended their theses within the set time frame) **are not obliged to submit their proposals under this instrument** and may submit them under the PRC, PRCE or PRCI instruments if the composition and size of the projects justify this. They must check that **the structure of the project satisfies the objectives and expectations of the JCJC instrument** to ensure that the proposal will not be considered as a PRC or PRCE (see § B.4.3 and B.5.3, the evaluation sub-criterion specific to the JCJC instrument).*

For 2021, the instrument is open to **young researchers with a permanent or fixed-term employment contract**, with the same research facility or organisation, all the duration of the project. Young researchers’ salaries are not expenditures that are eligible for ANR funding.

It is not possible to combine JCJC funding with a similar type of funding: ATIP-Avenir Inserm, CNRS Momentum, the City of Paris Emergence programme, funding from the European Research Council (ERC) or ANR’s ERC Springboard call or another ongoing JCJC project¹³.

12 Exceptions may be granted. The following events occurring after the PhD is awarded can be taken into account: maternity leave, parental leave, long-term sick leave (more than 90 days), national service. The limit is pushed back for a period equal to the duration of the event. Additionally, for women the limit is extended by one year per dependent child. Where appropriate, supporting documents must be provided when the pre-proposal is submitted, in stage 1.

13 Coordinators may submit a proposal in the final year of a JCJC project providing that the current project will have ended by the date on which the grant for the new project is agreed, i.e. by 31/12/2021.

Table 2: Table summarising the four funding instruments

	Consortium specificities	Instrument characteristics
International Collaborative Research Projects (PRCI)	<p>Collaboration between at least one French public research body (a knowledge spillover and research organisation or facility laboratory eligible for ANR funding) applying for ANR funding and at least one foreign partner simultaneously applying for funding from a foreign funding agency as part of a bilateral agreement between ANR and a foreign agency.</p> <p>Companies may participate, depending on the agreement with the foreign agency¹⁴.</p>	<p>Balance between the scientific contributions (jointly defined objectives, shared skills and tasks, shared results and intellectual property pursuant to a consortium agreement) and financial contributions of the respective partners in each country, the added value of the collaboration and contribution to the French scientific community</p>
Collaborative Research Projects involving Enterprises (PRCE)	<p>Collaboration between at least one French public research body (a knowledge spillover and research organisation or facility laboratory eligible for ANR funding) and at least one company conducting research and development work in France.</p> <p>Potential foreign partners participate with their own funds.</p>	<p>Effective collaboration between the two types of partners (objectives defined jointly, shared skills and tasks, shared risks and results and intellectual property pursuant to a consortium agreement)</p>
Collaborative Research Projects (PRC)	<p>Collaboration between at least one French public research body (a knowledge spillover and research organisation or facility laboratory eligible for ANR funding) national or international, public or private, research teams or groups.</p> <p>Collaboration within one single public research body (a knowledge spillover and research facility eligible for ANR funding) between several teams or research teams.</p> <p>Potential foreign partners participate with their own funds.</p> <p>Companies conducting R&D work may participate without effective collaboration.</p>	<p>Strong synergy between several skills involved (objectives defined jointly, shared skills and tasks, shared risks and results)</p>
Young researchers (JJC)	<p>Single-partner instrument: a French public research body (a knowledge spillover and research organisation or facility laboratory eligible for ANR funding).</p> <p>Coordinator who obtained their diploma (PhD or equivalent) less than 10 years ago, i.e. after 01/01/2010 (unless a derogation applies).</p> <p>Collaboration with foreign and national researchers is possible if own funds are used.</p>	<p>Empower young researchers working in France by creating or consolidating a team dedicated to a project and encouraging them to adopt innovative approaches to tackle scientific and technological barriers.</p>

¹⁴ Refer to the specific annexes dedicated to the PRCI on the [2021 AAPG web page](#)

B. The two-stage selection process for the 2021 AAPG

B.1. General process

Projects submitted within the framework of the 2021 Generic Call for Proposals (2021 AAPG) go through a two-stage selection process.

Stage 1 involves identifying PRC/PRCE/JCJC pre-proposals for which it is justified to write full proposals, particularly in terms of project quality and scientific aims (pre-proposal evaluation criteria, see § B.4.3). At the end of stage 1, approximately 2,500 to 3,000 coordinators will be invited to submit full proposals during stage 2.

For PRCI projects, stage 1 involves simply registering ¹⁵the intent to submit a PRCI full proposal at stage 2 ([see annexes on PRCI](#)).

Stage 2 is aimed at selecting the best proposals by assessing, in accordance with international competitive project selection principles, the scientific excellence and the quality of construction and potential impact of the project described in a full proposal (full proposal evaluation criteria, see § B.5.3.). At the end of this stage, ANR publishes the list of projects selected for funding.

B.2. Parties involved in the evaluation and selection process

Project selection at ANR is based on the principle of peer review. Scientific evaluation panels are convened and external peer reviewers, appointed by the panel members themselves, are called upon for their scientific expertise related to the projects being evaluated:

- The scientific evaluation panels (CES) are composed of highly qualified French or foreign individuals from the research communities concerned by the panel.¹⁶
 - The composition of the panel covers all the disciplinary fields and themes related to the projects submitted to the panel.
 - Each evaluation panel is chaired by a “president referent” (a chairperson)¹⁷ trained in ANR selection process and ethics training. He/she heads the evaluation panel bureau consisting of at least two vice-chairs¹⁸ who assist him/her in preparing and carrying out the panel’s work.
 - Members of the panel are appointed by ANR for their scientific expertise upon a proposal by the panel’s bureau. They are in charge of evaluating and selecting pre-proposals with the exceptional assistance of external peer reviewers (stage 1), and evaluating and ranking full proposals with the assistance of external peer reviewers and based on the coordinator’s

¹⁵ With the exception of PRCI instruments in collaboration with the United States (NSF - Mathematics and digital sciences), for which submissions must be made to the foreign agency. ANR must be provided with administrative information and a copy of the project proposal in accordance with the procedures described in the [annex specific to the agreement in question](#) for these projects. These PRCI are however subject to the rules of 2021 AAPG in terms of eligibility for the "Limit to participation" (§B.4.2 et §B.5.2).

¹⁶ The composition of the scientific evaluation panels remains confidential throughout the AAPG selection process. The list of panel members is published on the ANR website at the same time as all of the AAPG results, i.e. late-July 2021.

¹⁷ The focal point is appointed for a 1-year term, renewable no more than twice. A call for applications is published on the ANR website annually to renew the panel chairpersons and referral managers.

¹⁸ There are between one and three vice-chairs, depending on the panel size.

response to feedback from the external peer reviewers, if any (stage 2).

- The external peer reviewers involved in stages 1 and 2 at the proposal of the evaluation panel will provide independent written evaluations of one or more pre-proposals or full proposals without participating in panel meetings.

The [ANR Code of Ethics and Scientific Integrity](#) apply to all persons involved in the project selection process.

B.3. The Scientific Evaluation Panels for the 2021 AAPG

Each theme in the Work Programme corresponds, within the AAPG, to a dedicated scientific evaluation panel covering all topics concerned. The scientific scope and keywords characterising the 50 evaluation panels for the 2021 AAPG (see Annex 2: List of scientific evaluation panels for the research themes covered by the 2021 AAPG) are described in the text of the [2021 Generic Call for Proposals](#).

The project coordinator chooses the panel which will evaluate the proposal during stage 1 (submission of the pre-proposal for PRC, PRCE and JCJC instruments or registration for the PRCI instrument) and this choice cannot be modified during the process. This initial decision cannot be modified either during the selection process or during the implementation of the project if funding is allocated.¹⁹

B.4. Stage 1: pre-proposal submission and evaluation procedures, registration procedures

B.4.1. Submitting pre-proposals (PRC/PRCE/JCJC instruments) and registering (PRCI instrument)

The pre-proposal includes:

- A form to be filled in and submitted online²⁰
- A document describing the project (4 pages maximum including the bibliography) to be uploaded to the submission website in the expected format.
- CVs of the coordinator and any partners' scientific leaders (to be completed online).

The full proposal must describe the same project as that described in the pre-proposal selected in stage 1. On this basis, some of the information requested may seem straightforward during stage 1, but it is important to record it correctly, checking with the partner's appropriate administrative and financial departments. Modifications at stage 2 may be considered by the scientific evaluation panels to be too significant, making the full proposal out of line with the pre-proposal and therefore ineligible (see §B.5.2 "Compliance with pre-proposal" criterion).

¹⁹ The draft list of panels may be revised after the submission and registration phase in stage 1 depending on the number and nature of project proposals. If this list or to scope of CES panels is modified, ANR will consult the coordinators effected by the changes in view of adapting their roles if necessary.

²⁰ Proposals cannot be submitted unless the form is fully completed. The coordinator is responsible for planning for submission and obtaining the required information beforehand.

Registration includes:

- A form to be filled in and submitted online
- CVs of the French and foreign coordinators and CVs of any partners' scientific leaders (to be completed online).

Online form

The account used to log onto the online submission and registration site must be set up using information on the **scientific coordinator**²¹ (surname, first name, e-mail address (preferably institution's e-mail)), even if a third party enters the information online.

The following information must be provided online:

- **Funding instrument**
- **Relevant bilateral agreement** (for PRCI registration)
- **Scientific evaluation panel**
- **Project identification:** acronym, French and English title, duration,²² provisional amount of aid requested from ANR
- **Partnership:** all partner establishments, scientific and technical leaders, and main people involved in the project, including their e-mail address and ORCID ID²³
- **RNSR ID** (National directory of research structures) required for research bodies and **SIRET number** for companies.
- **The e-mail addresses of the Laboratory Director and the Administrative Director of the establishment managing funding.**²⁴
- **Scientific abstracts (non-confidential)** in French and in English (no more than 1,000 characters, including spaces)²⁵
- **External peer reviewers requested to abstain from evaluation** (field not compulsory but must be completed at this stage if appropriate): coordinators can indicate external peer

21 French scientific coordinator when registering a PRCI project.

22 If the proposal includes a request for a thesis grant, please ensure that the project duration is long enough for recruitment and completion of the thesis in question, i.e. longer than 36 months. For a PRCI project: (1) the project duration must be the same for the French partners and for the foreign partners involved in the bilateral agreement; and (2) the duration may be limited by the terms of the relevant bilateral agreement (see the specific annex for each collaboration on the dedicated [2021 AAPG](#) web page).

23 ORCID is a non-profit organisation supported by a global community of organisational members, including research organisations, publishers, funders, professional associations, and other stakeholders in the research ecosystem. For more information, go to: <https://orcid.org/>

24 The Administrative Director of the establishment managing funding, not the administrative officer within the laboratory in question. The scientific leaders of partners should obtain the relevant person's name from the department responsible for managing ANR projects within their managing establishment.

25 These abstracts are intended to be passed on, particularly when contacting experts as part of the selection process. Given that abstracts are public knowledge, the applicant must check that no information is provided that could prevent the future filing of a patent. Contact the patent services of the research facilities for more details in case of doubt.

reviewers (individuals) or laboratories/companies for which there could be conflicts of interest and confidentiality issues if they were involved in evaluating the project.²⁶

- **Key words relating to the chosen evaluation panel and discipline-related key words:** at least one ERC code is required.
- **Other information:** use of a very large research infrastructure – TGIR, application for a competitiveness cluster label,²⁷ interest for co-funding²⁸ and at least one [Sustainable Development Goal](#).
- **For JCJC,** year in which the doctoral thesis was defended (or degree or qualification corresponding to the international PhD was obtained) and evidence of the request for an exception if applicable.²⁹

*The following information cannot be modified in stage 2: **funding instrument, scientific evaluation panel - including for the PRCI instrument, the coordinator**³⁰, project acronym and title. Applicants are also advised to read the stage 2 eligibility criteria carefully and bear them in mind at the pre-proposal stage (see § B.5.2, particularly the "Compliance with pre-proposal criterion").*

Applicants' commitments

- The coordinator formally declares (by ticking a box in the online form) that all project participants – whether requesting funding or not – **have sought and obtained their superiors' permission to take part in the project**. ANR may send the list of relevant pre-proposals (PRC/PRCE/JCJC) and registrations (PRCI) submitted via its website to supervising authority or laboratory directors and administrative directors of establishments managing funding for projects related to them.
- The coordinator formally declares (by ticking a box online) that all project participants – whether requesting funding or not – abide by the [French National Charter for Research Integrity](#) and the [ANR Code of Ethics and Scientific Integrity](#).
- If the proposed project uses genetic resources, the coordinator formally declares (by ticking a box online) that all project participants– whether requesting funding or not – abide by the obligations arising from the [Nagoya protocol](#).
- In accordance with the obligations arising from the French law for a Digital Republic and with reference to the national open archives plan, the coordinator undertakes (by ticking a box online), if it receives funding, to: (1) post the full texts of all scientific publications

26 This list should be limited to a reasonable length (no more than 5). ANR reserves the right to check potential conflicts if the list provided is too extensive and makes evaluation impossible.

27 Projects wishing to be labelled by one or more competitiveness clusters must declare this in stage 1 of the selection process. Such requests will not be accepted in stage 2. PRCI proposals are not eligible for labelling.

28 Draft list of available co-funding arrangements in the full-text version of [Work Programme 2021](#)

29 Conditions apply for exceptions if the thesis was defended prior to 1 January 2010. The following events occurring after the PhD is awarded can be taken into account: maternity leave, parental leave, long-term sick leave (more than 90 days), national service. The limit is pushed back for a period equal to the duration of the event. Additionally, for women the limit is extended by one year per dependent child. Where appropriate, supporting documents must be provided when the pre-proposal is submitted.

30 Except in case of force majeure, i.e. caused by a both unforeseeable and unavoidable event. A specific authorisation request must then be sent to ANR, explaining the unavoidable reason for changing the coordinator.

resulting from the research project in an open archive (either directly in HAL or via a local institutional archive); and (2) to provide a data management plan ([DMP](#)), which must be updated throughout the project, as per the arrangements communicated when the agreement is signed.

- The coordinator undertakes to (by ticking a box online) consider gender-related aspects in the research, regardless of the field to ensure that quality knowledge is generated. This commitment is part of ANR policy aiming to contribute to gender equality and to reduce gender bias in the knowledge generation process.

Project description

The pre-proposal must describe the project and provide the information needed for the purposes of evaluation based on the two pre-defined criteria (see Table 4). Therefore, the following plan must be followed:

- Context, positioning and objective of pre-proposal:

(“Quality and scientific aims” evaluation criterion)

Describe the objectives and scientific hypotheses, and the position in relation to the state of the art. Present the methodology used to achieve the aims. Demonstrate the novelty and originality of the project in terms of its objectives and methodology. Describe the project’s position in relation to the research issues covered by the chosen scientific theme.

- Partnership

(“Organisation and implementation of the project” evaluation criterion)

For a collaborative project (PRC or PRCE): describe the coordinator, and his/her experience of coordinating projects and in the disciplinary area covered by the pre-proposal. Describe the consortium, each partner’s role in achieving the objectives, and how the partners complement one another to that end.

For a JCJC project: Describe the scientific coordinator, his/her position with the host organisation or laboratory **on the time it takes to complete projects**, and his/her experience of coordinating projects and in the field covered by the pre-proposal. Describe the team that will be involved in the project outlined in the pre-proposal. Demonstrate how the project contributes to empowering the young researcher and to team development.

- Bibliography

(“Quality and scientific aims” evaluation criterion)

List the bibliographical references used for the pre-proposal.³¹ Impact factors for the journals must not be mentioned, as per [the San Francisco Declaration](#) signed by ANR. The DOI can, however, be mentioned.

A template can be downloaded from the [2021 Generic Call for Proposals](#) web page.

³¹ The bibliography may include preprints that are yet to be published in a peer-reviewed journal, especially those referencing preliminary data.

The project description must:

- **Contain a maximum of 4 pages.**
- **Use a page format which makes the document easy to read** (A4 page, Calibri 11 or equivalent font, single line spacing, 2+ cm margins, page numbering; for tables and figures, minimum Calibri 9 or equivalent).
- **Be submitted in an unprotected PDF format** (generated using word-processing software, not scanned).
- Be drafted **preferably in English**. Coordinators are strongly advised to draft the document in English as evaluations may be carried out by non-French-speaking scientists. If the project description is written in French, a translation may be requested. If coordinators are unable to provide an English translation, they can contact ANR to find an appropriate solution.

The submission site will not accept any documents exceeding 4 pages or submitted in a format other than PDF.

B.4.2. Eligibility of pre-proposals and registrations

ANR will only verify eligibility on the basis of information and documents provided on the pre-proposal submission and PRCI registration site by the closure date and time.

When analysing eligibility, the information entered online shall take precedence over that indicated in the project description if these two sources of information conflict with each other, and if the information is incorrectly indicated or missing.

No data may be edited after the closure date and time for the call for proposals. Data is entered subject to the direct liability of the coordinators, who must plan ahead for submission and allocate the necessary time.

Pre-proposals deemed ineligible will not be evaluated and cannot be the subject of full proposals. Registrations deemed ineligible cannot be the subject of full proposals.

Pre-proposals or registrations may be declared ineligible at any stage of the process.

Table 3: Eligibility criteria according to the selected funding instrument

	PRCI	PRCE	PRC	JCJC
Completeness of pre-proposal		X	X	X
Limit to participation	X	X	X	X
Limit to coordination	X	X	X	X
Uniqueness of proposal		X	X	X
Partner receiving funding		X	X	X
Themes funded by other funding bodies			X	
“Young Researcher” status				X

Completeness of pre-proposal: Pre-proposals should be finalised online on the dedicated submission site on the specified date and time of closure at the latest: **01 December 2020 at 1 pm** (Paris time) No document will be accepted after this date and time. No data may be edited after this date and time. Complete pre-proposals must include:

- The fully completed online form, **including coordinators’ commitments**
- The project description document (PDF), **not exceeding 4 pages**, uploaded to the dedicated site.

All pre-proposals submitted that fail to comply with these rules are ineligible.

Limit to participation: A researcher may only submit one project as coordinator and cannot be involved (as coordinator or scientific leader for a project partner) in more than three proposals submitted to ANR under the Generic Call for Proposals, including PRCI³², or under the French-German call in Social Sciences and Humanities outlined in the 2021 Work Programme³³.

All pre-proposals and registrations involving individuals who do not satisfy this requirement are ineligible. The coordinator is therefore responsible for checking that the scientific leaders of partners for the project comply with this limit to participation rule.

Limit to coordination: A coordinator of a PRC, PRCE or JCJC proposal funded under the 2020 Generic Call for Proposals cannot submit a PRC, PRCE or JCJC proposal as coordinator for the 2021 Generic Call for Proposals. However, the coordinator may act as a partner’s scientific leader or be otherwise involved in a proposal submitted or registered for the 2021 edition.

A JCJC project coordinator cannot act as the coordinator for a JCJC, PRC, PRCE or PRCI project submitted for the 2021 Generic Call for Proposals while funding for the initial JCJC project is

³² The limit to participation in no more than three projects as coordinator and scientific leader therefore applies equally to stage 1 PRCI registrations and to PRCI where the Lead agency is a foreign agency. Consequently, the coordinator of a stage 1-registered PRCI project, or a proposal submitted to a foreign Lead Agency, cannot be the coordinator of a separate PRC, PRCE or JCJC proposal submitted under the 2021 AAPG, regardless of the outcome of the stage 1 evaluation for that PRC, PRCE or JCJC proposal.

³³ The coordinator is the natural person in charge of scientific aspects of the implementation of the project, in the name of the coordination partner, as defined in the [Regulations concerning the conditions of allocation of ANR funding](#). A French coordinator is systematically designated as part of a PRCI project, including if the foreign agency is the Lead Agency.

ongoing. However, the coordinator may act as a partner's scientific leader or be otherwise involved in a proposal submitted for the 2021 edition.

All pre-proposals submitted and registrations that fail to comply with these limits are ineligible.

Uniqueness of proposal: A proposal cannot be similar in whole or in part to another proposal submitted to a call under evaluation by ANR (all calls for proposals, all evaluation stages taken together) or that resulted in funding from ANR.

Similarity between two projects is established if the proposals in question (in their entirety or partially) describe the same main objectives, or are simple adaptations³⁴.

All similar proposals are ineligible.

Partners receiving funding: The consortium must include at least one public body involved in French research (a knowledge spillover and research organisation or facility laboratory eligible for ANR funding).³⁵

All pre-proposals submitted that fail to comply with this rule are ineligible.

Themes funded by other funding bodies: Project themes submitted as part of the PRC instrument must correspond to a topic within ANR's scope of action, which does not overlap those of other funding agencies (particularly INCa, ANRS). Eligibility of projects on themes funded by these bodies (in particular cancer, AIDS and viral hepatitis) is jointly determined and applied by ANR and the said bodies.

All pre-proposals submitted that fail to comply with this rule are ineligible.

"Young Researcher" status: A researcher submitting a JCJC project for the 2021 AAPG as a coordinator, must have obtained his/her doctoral thesis (or any diploma or qualification corresponding to the international PhD standard) before 01 January 2010. If an exception applies³⁶, supporting documents must be uploaded to the site by the call closure date and time.

All pre-proposals submitted without supporting documents for an exception, if the PhD was declared obtained prior to 01 January 2010, are ineligible.

B.4.3. Evaluation of pre-proposals

Each pre-proposal is evaluated on the basis of the information completed and submitted online, through the submission website before the closure deadline for stage 1.

³⁴ Article 7.1 of the Funding rules may apply if one or several intellectual property rights are breached or if ANR ethical or integrity rules are breached, as applicable.

³⁵ See the [Regulations concerning the conditions of allocation of ANR funding](#)

³⁶ Exceptions may be granted. The following events occurring after the PhD is awarded can be taken into account: maternity leave, parental leave, long-term sick leave (more than 90 days), national service. The limit is pushed back for a period equal to the duration of the event. Additionally, for women the limit is extended by one year per dependent child. Where appropriate, supporting documents must be provided online when the pre-proposal is submitted to the dedicated site.

All pre-proposals are individually evaluated by two members of the Scientific Evaluation Panel (CES). These two members are appointed by the panel bureau after ANR has checked that no conflict of interest arises with the allocated pre-proposals.

For projects of a highly cross-disciplinary or interdisciplinary nature, a third panel member may be called upon (from within the scientific evaluation panel itself or from another panel), where the panel members appointed to evaluate the project make an exceptional request to this end.³⁷

Pre-proposal evaluation criteria

Pre-proposals are evaluated against **two criteria, with different sub-criteria for each funding instrument** (see Table 4).

The sub-criteria of the two main criteria serve as a guide for coordinators compiling their files and drafting their scientific document, and for assessors producing their evaluation report.

Table 4: Pre-proposal evaluation criteria

PRCE	PRC	JCJC
Criterion 1: Quality and scientific ambition (determining criterion: an "A" rating is required)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarity of research objectives and hypotheses ▪ Novelty, originality, position in relation to the state of art ▪ Appropriate methodology ▪ Ability of the project to address the research issues covered by the chosen theme 		
Criterion 2: Organisation and implementation of the project		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skills, expertise and involvement of the scientific coordinator and the partners 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality and complementarity of the consortium, quality of the collaboration 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribution to the coordinator's empowerment and team development

During the evaluation, the "Quality and scientific aims" criterion is determining: the evaluation panel must award an **"A" rating** on this criterion for the proposal to be invited to proceed to stage 2.

Ranking

Scientific evaluation panels meet up following the drafting of individual evaluations. The panel will discuss each proposal and determine the ranking of pre-proposals, broken down into two categories: A "Project is eligible for stage 2" / B "Project not selected. Project is satisfactory but has weak points and cannot be selected for stage 2".

³⁷ In exceptional cases where the panel members appointed to evaluate a highly cross-disciplinary or interdisciplinary project request the input of a third member, but where no member of any panel without conflicts of interest has the requisite expertise, an external peer reviewer may be called upon to evaluate the project.

ANR sends e-mails to all scientific coordinators of pre-proposals informing them of the results of this first stage. A panel evaluation report is always given, outlining the evaluation panel's final decision on the proposal, unless the evaluation could not be completed because the pre-proposal was deemed ineligible.

B.5. Stage 2: full proposal submission and evaluation procedures

B.5.1. Submitting full proposals

Full proposals include:

- A form to be filled in and submitted online
- A scientific document (20 pages maximum including the bibliography) to be uploaded to the submission website in the expected format.
- The coordinators' CVs, the foreign coordinator's CV for PRCI proposal, and the CVs of any partners' scientific leaders.

Online form

Some fields are pre-filled with the information provided at the pre-proposal stage (PRC/PRCE/JCJC) or upon registration (PRCI) and cannot be changed (scientific evaluation panel, funding instrument, scientific coordinator's identity³⁸, project acronym and title).

The following information must be checked and corrected/completed if necessary:

- **Each partner's identification** (including RNSR ID, full name, abbreviated title, category of partner and system for calculating grant amounts; type and unit number, managing and hosting authorities for a research body's laboratory; SIRET number and workforce numbers for companies).
- **Identification of scientific leaders** (including the coordinator) and e-mail addresses
- **Financial data** broken down by expenditure heading and partner³⁹
- **Scientific abstracts** (non-confidential⁴⁰), between 1,000 and 4,000 characters, in French and English
- Coordinators must fill in the text box to demonstrate to ANR how they consider (or exclude) gender when implementing their research project. The content provided will not be evaluated by the selected scientific evaluation panel.

³⁸ Except in case of force majeure, i.e. caused by a both unforeseeable and unavoidable event. A specific authorisation request must then be sent to ANR, explaining the unavoidable reason for changing the coordinator.

³⁹ In order to complete the financial data, each scientific and technical leader for each partner involved in a project applying for ANR funding must obtain the necessary information from its managing authority.

⁴⁰ These abstracts are intended (1) to be passed on, particularly when contacting experts as part of the selection process, we therefore recommend they be carefully drafted to encourage the experts contacted to approve the contents and to allow for a suitable evaluation of the proposal; (2) to be published on the ANR website, without modification, if the proposal is selected for funding, therefore, do not include any information that could compromise a future patent application. Contact the patent services of the research facilities for more details in case of doubt.

- *Criteria specific to PRCI projects*, identification of the foreign partner involved in the bilateral agreement and its scientific leader coordinating the project abroad (as “referent pays”), places where research is to be performed and amount requested from the foreign agency

The only information that has to be entered online concerning foreign partners or partners participating with their own funds is the identity of the scientific and technical leader and the place where the research is to be performed.

Applicants' commitment

All scientific leaders for every French partner seeking funding (not including foreign partners) will formally declare (by ticking a box in the online form) that **their superiors**, particularly the appropriate administrative and financial departments and the persons authorised to legally commit the institution managing funding, or their representatives, **have consented to their current submission procedure and all information relating to the proposal has been communicated to them.**

Project description

The scientific document comprising the full proposal must provide the information needed for evaluation based on the three pre-defined criteria (see Table 6). Therefore, the scientific document must follow the following plan:

- Context, positioning and objective of proposal
(“Quality and scientific aims” evaluation criterion)

Describe the objectives and scientific hypotheses, and the position in relation to the state of the art. Present the methodology used to achieve the aims. Describe how scientific risks are managed. Demonstrate the novelty and originality of the project in terms of its objectives and methodology. Give a detailed description of the research programme and the allocation of work tasks between the different partners, and illustrate with a Gantt chart.

This is a PRCI project: positioning of the project with respect to the research priorities of the chosen scientific theme.

- Organisation and implementation of the project
(“Organisation and implementation of the project” evaluation criterion)

For a collaborative project: describe the coordinator, and his/her experience of coordinating projects and in the scientific field covered by the proposal. Describe the consortium, each partner’s role and how the partners complement one another in achieving project objectives. List ongoing projects in which each partner’s coordinator and scientific and technical leader are involved.

For a JCJC project: Describe the scientific coordinator, his/her position with the host organisation or laboratory or the time it takes to complete projects, and his/her experience of coordinating projects and in the field covered by the proposal. List ongoing projects in which the scientific coordinator is involved. Describe the team that will be involved in the project outlined in the proposal.

Demonstrate how the project contributes to empowering the young researcher and to team development.

All instruments: Describe the resources implemented and requested to achieve the objectives (including the following: a table summarising the resources requested per major item of expenditure and per partner; scientific justifications for these resources per item of expenditure and per partner and in relation to the objectives; the context in terms of human and financial resources for the project, comparing it to other ongoing projects).

For a PRCI project, the description must include details of the foreign scientific coordinator (referral manager), the scientific contribution of the foreign teams and detailed financial data for the foreign partners (the same information as required for the French partners).

- Project impact and benefits

(“Impact and consequences of the project” evaluation criterion)

Describe in what field(s) (scientific, economic, social or cultural) project results may have an impact, in the short, medium or long term.

For a PRC or JCJC project: describe how results will be disseminated and exploited, including potential initiatives to promote scientific, technical and industrial culture.

For a PRCE project: describe actions to transfer technology and innovation to the world of business, including any potential initiatives promoting scientific, technical and industrial culture.

For a PRCI project: describe the strategy for disseminating and exploiting results, including potential initiatives promoting scientific, technical and industrial knowledge, highlight value added by European or international cooperation, and the contribution of this cooperation to the French scientific community

- Bibliography

(“Quality and scientific aims” evaluation criterion)

List of bibliographical references used for the proposal⁴¹. Impact factors for the journals must not be mentioned, as per [the San Francisco Declaration](#) signed by ANR. The DOI can, however, be mentioned.

A template can be downloaded at the start of stage 2 from the [2021 Generic Call for Proposals](#) web page.

The scientific document must:

- **Contain a maximum of 20 pages**, including the bibliography, Gantt chart, budget summary table, and scientific justification.
- **Use a page format which makes the document easy to read** (A4 page, Calibri 11 or equivalent font, single line spacing, 2+ cm margins, page numbering; for tables and figures, minimum Calibri 9 or equivalent).

⁴¹ The bibliography may include preprints that are yet to be published in a peer-reviewed journal, especially those referencing preliminary data.

- **Be submitted in an unprotected PDF format** (generated using word-processing software, not scanned).
- **Be drafted preferably in English.** The evaluation panel may include non-French-speaking scientific peers. ANR strongly advises coordinators to draft proposals in English or, if the proposal is initially written in French, to provide an English translation if required. If coordinators are unable to provide an English translation, they can contact ANR to find an appropriate solution.

The submission site will not accept any documents exceeding 20 pages or submitted in a format other than PDF.

B.5.2. Eligibility of full proposals

ANR will only verify eligibility (see Table 5) on the basis of information and documents provided on the full proposal submission site on the closure date and time.

When analysing eligibility, **the information entered online shall take precedence over that indicated in the scientific document**, if these two sources of information conflict with each other, and if the information is incorrectly indicated or missing.

No data may be edited after the closure date and time for the call for proposals. Data is entered subject to the direct liability of the coordinators, who must plan ahead for submission and allocate the necessary time.

Full proposals deemed ineligible will not be evaluated and therefore cannot be allocated funding. Full proposals may be declared ineligible at any stage of the process.

Table 5: Full proposal eligibility criteria according to funding instrument

	PRCI	PRCE	PRC	JCJC
Completeness of proposal	X	X	X	X
Limit to participation	X	X	X	X
Uniqueness of proposal	X	X	X	X
Partner receiving funding	X	X	X	X
Compliance with pre-proposal		X	X	X
Foreign partner concerned by bilateral agreement	X			
Criteria specific to PRCI	X			

Completeness of proposal: Proposals should be finalised online via the submission site on the specified date and time of closure. No document will be accepted after this date and time. No data may be edited after this date and time. To be considered complete, a full proposal must include:

- The fully completed online form;
- A commitment from each scientific and technical leader of every partner seeking funding from ANR;

- The scientific document uploaded to the dedicated site, not exceeding 20 pages.

All proposals submitted that fail to comply with these rules are ineligible.

Limit to participation: A researcher may only submit one project as coordinator⁴² and cannot be involved (as coordinator or scientific leader for a project partner) in more than three proposals submitted to ANR under the Generic Call for Proposals, including PRCI⁴³- and under the French-German call in Social Sciences and Humanities (FRAL) outlined in Work Programme 2021.⁴⁴

All proposals and registrations involving individuals who do not satisfy this requirement are ineligible. The coordinator is therefore responsible for checking that the scientific leaders of partners for the project comply with this limit to participation rule.

Uniqueness of the proposal: a proposal cannot be similar in whole or in part to another proposal submitted to a call under evaluation by ANR (all calls for proposals, all evaluation stages taken together) or that resulted in funding from ANR.

Similarity between two projects is established if the proposals in question (in their entirety or partially) describe the same main objectives, or are simple adaptations.⁴⁵

All similar proposals are ineligible.

Partners receiving funding: The consortium must include at least one public body involved in French research (a knowledge spillover and research organisation or facility laboratory eligible for ANR funding).⁴⁶

All proposals submitted that fail to comply with this rule are ineligible.

Compliance with pre-proposal: The full proposal must describe the same project as that described in the pre-proposal. The funding instrument, the evaluation panel and the coordinator⁴⁷ must be the same as in the pre-proposal. The relevance of other discrepancies will be assessed by panel members based on the explanation given by the coordinators when submitting the full proposal (including discrepancies with the amount of funding requested at stage 1).

42 The coordinator is the natural person in charge of scientific aspects of the implementation of the project, in the name of the coordination partner, as defined in the [Regulations concerning the conditions of allocation of ANR funding](#). A French coordinator is systematically designated as part of a PRCI project, including if the foreign agency is the Lead Agency.

43 The limit to participation in no more than three projects as coordinator or scientific leader applies equally to stage 1 PRCI registrations and to PRCI where the Lead agency is a foreign agency. Consequently, the coordinator of a stage 1-registered PRCI project, or a proposal submitted to a foreign Lead Agency, cannot be the coordinator of a separate PRC, PRCE or JCJC proposal submitted under the 2021 AAPG, regardless of the outcome of the stage 1 evaluation for that PRC, PRCE or JCJC proposal.

44 The coordinator of a JCJC, PRC, PRCE or PRCI project proposal (including PRCI, for which the foreign agency is the Lead Agency) submitted under the 2021 AAPG, cannot be the coordinator for a proposal submitted under the FR-Ger SSH 2021 (AAP open between mid-December 2020 and mid-March 2021), and regardless of the outcome of the said JCJC, PRC, PRCE or PRCI projects in stages 1 and 2 of the AAPG.

45 Article 7.1 of the Funding rules may apply if one or several intellectual property rights are breached or if ANR ethical or integrity rules are breached, as applicable.

46 See the [Regulations concerning the conditions of allocation of ANR funding](#)

47 Except in case of force majeure, i.e. caused by a both unforeseeable and unavoidable event. A specific authorisation request must then be sent to ANR, explaining the unavoidable reason for changing the coordinator.

If there is a significant deviation, the proposal is declared ineligible.

Foreign partner concerned by bilateral agreement: The consortium must include at least one French public research body (a knowledge spillover and research organisation or facility laboratory eligible for ANR funding)⁴⁸ and at least one foreign partner subject to the bilateral agreement. Two scientific coordinators should be clearly indicated, one who is French and the other who is from the other country (referral manager) concerned by the bilateral agreement.

If no foreign partner is involved in the bilateral agreement, the proposal is not eligible.

Criteria specific to PRCI projects: The eligibility criteria of the foreign agency concluding a collaboration agreement with ANR may apply on top of those mentioned above. Applicants must therefore carefully read the call upon its publication by the foreign agency to check for possible additional criteria.

B.5.3. Evaluation of full proposals

Each proposal is evaluated on the basis of the information completed and submitted online, through the submission website before the closure deadline for stage 2.

Evaluation in the second stage of the selection process may involve external peer reviewers and panel members who either took part or did not take part in the first stage of the selection process.

One additional criterion is used in stage 2 (see Table 6), and the sub-criteria differ for each funding instrument to ensure that the full proposals can be properly assessed against the requirements of the funding instrument in question.

⁴⁸ See the [Regulations concerning the conditions of allocation of ANR funding](#)

Table 6: Full proposal evaluation criteria according to funding instrument

PRCI	PRCE	PRC	JCJC
Criterion 1: Quality and scientific aims			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarity of research objectives and hypotheses ▪ Novelty, originality, position in relation to the state of art ▪ Appropriate methodology, scientific risk management 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability of the project to address the research issues covered by the chosen scientific theme 			
Criterion 2: Organisation and implementation of the project			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skills, expertise and involvement of the scientific coordinator and the partners 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality and complementarity of the consortium, quality of the collaboration 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribution to the coordinator's empowerment and team development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appropriate deployed and requested resources for the project's objectives 			
Criterion 3: Project impact and benefits			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential impact in scientific, economic, social or cultural fields 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategy for disseminating and exploiting results, including promoting scientific, technical and industrial knowledge, value added by European or international cooperation, contribution to the French scientific community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Action to transfer technology and innovation to the socio-economic world, including the promotion of scientific, technical and industrial knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategy for disseminating and exploiting results, including promoting scientific, technical and industrial knowledge 	

The following evaluation chart is used by both external peer reviewers and panel members. The sub-criteria are a guide for coordinators compiling their files and drafting their scientific document, and for assessors (member or external peer) producing their evaluation report.

External peer reviewers' assessment

The aim is for each full proposal to be evaluated by at least two external peer reviewers (individuals not involved in scientific evaluation panel meetings) proposed by panel members appointed to evaluate the proposal and approached by ANR following conflict-of-interest checks.

The external peer reviewers operate individually and in total confidentiality, without any exchanges with third parties. The only elements at their disposal are the materials in the full proposal as completed and submitted online by the scientific coordinator by the closure date and time of the second stage.

The external peer reviewers complete an individual appraisal report in which a comment is given for each evaluation criteria.

Rebuttal stage

Report(s) by external peer reviewers⁴⁹ will systematically be sent to the coordinator for each proposal in June (forecast date, the precise date will be published later on the ANR website). The coordinator will then have 7 days to respond to these reports, **if necessary**, via an online interface.

The aim of the rebuttal stage is **solely to report any inaccuracies in the external peer reviewer's report to the scientific evaluation panel**. The coordinator may not, in his/her response, modify the project as described in the submitted full proposal (scope, consortium, budget, etc.), or add new information (new data, published article, etc.).

The coordinator's response is shared only with members of the scientific panel.

Any responses to reviewers must be finalised online by the closure date and time. No responses will be accepted or modified after the closure date and time.

The panel will disregard any responses to external peer reviewer report(s) that serve a purpose other than to report inaccuracies to the scientific evaluation panel.

Evaluation by the scientific evaluation panel members

Full proposals are also evaluated by two scientific evaluation panel members. Panel members evaluate individual proposals based on the elements completed and submitted by the coordinators by the call closing time and date. They take account of external peer reviewers' reports and any response made by the coordinator to the external peer reviewers as well. External peer reviewers' reports can thus be seen in conjunction with this response, together with the comprehensive view that panel members have over the proposals assessed within their panel (a view that external peer reviewers do not have).

Ranking

Scientific evaluation panels meet up following the drafting of individual evaluations, in full session. A proposal-by-proposal collegial discussion shall take place and proposals will be ranked per funding instrument.

One of the two panel members appointed to evaluate the proposal (the rapporteur) shall prepare a final evaluation report, taking into account his/her own opinion, the evaluation of the other appointed member, external peer reviewers' reports, possible feedback to external peer reviewers submitted by the coordinator, as well as discussions held in panel meetings **reflecting the consensus reached in the scientific evaluation panel**.

⁴⁹ It may not be possible to have all proposals evaluated by "at least two external peer reviewers" before the rebuttal stage begins (for instance, if the proposal relates to a highly specialised theme).

Results

For JCJC, PRC and PRCE, the decision whether or not to select a project is made by ANR based on rankings established by the scientific evaluation panel and budgetary capacity dedicated to the Generic Call for Proposals.

For PRCI, the final selection process is conducted jointly by ANR and the foreign agency involved based on evaluation elements gathered by the Lead funding agency under the “Lead Agency” procedure, or by both funding agencies under the “Non-Lead Agency” procedure. Each agency then funds its own country’s teams according to its own funding and monitoring procedures⁵⁰.

ANR posts the list of projects awarded funding on the [2021 AAPG](#) page of its website.

ANR informs all coordinators of their proposal’s selection or rejection by e-mail and transmits the final evaluation report justifying the evaluation panel’s decision.

Funding of selected proposals

Those proposals selected will be funded by ANR, following administrative and financial checks, mainly relating to accounting/compliance of grants in accordance with European regulations, depending on the type of consortium: either after a unilateral funding decision or after notification, providing that a funding agreement is signed with each of the beneficiary partners. This might sometimes require additional information and analysis (particularly for companies: financial statements, company registration (Kbis), information on capital relationships).

As part of the JCJC instrument, ANR funding may cover the cost of partially releasing them from teaching duties⁵¹ in accordance with rules on the allocation of release voted by the Board of Directors of the establishment managing the funding. **Only the project coordinator is affected by this release from teaching duties.**

The procedures for the attribution of ANR grants are set out in the [Regulations concerning the conditions of allocation of ANR funding](#). Partners are invited to read this document carefully immediately after publication in order to build their projects in compliance with its provisions, particularly with respect to budgetary aspects.

⁵⁰ A PRCI project cannot be selected for funding unless the two funding agencies – ANR and the partner foreign agency – reach an agreement in terms of selection.

⁵¹ See the Regulations concerning the conditions of allocation of ANR funding (<http://www.anr.fr/RF>; § 3.1.4).

C. Annex 1: Provisional schedule for the 2021 AAPG

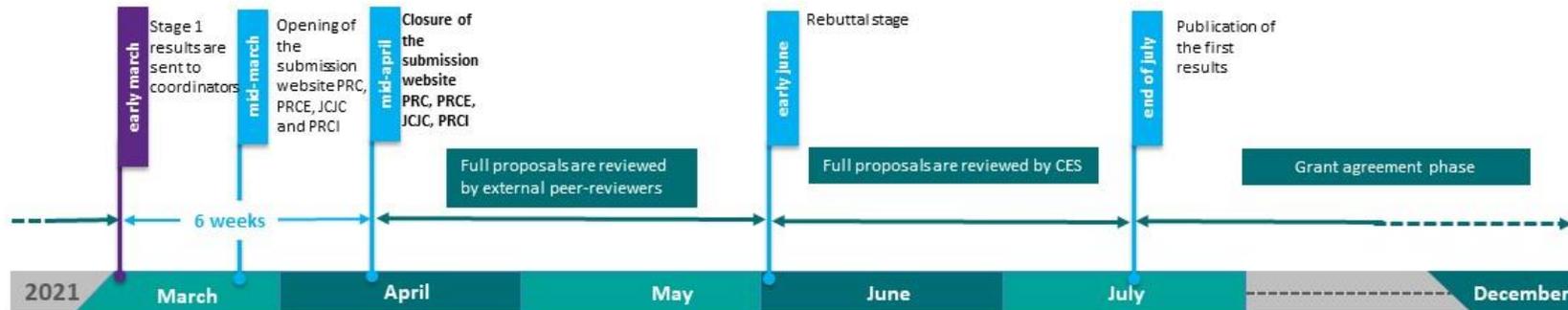
Stage 1

The applicants submit a pre-proposal (PRC/PRCE/JCJC) or register their intent to submit a proposal at stage 2 (PRCI)



Stage 2

Coordinators selected at the end of stage 1 and coordinators of a registered PRCI are invited to submit a full proposal at stage 2



D. Annex 2: List of scientific evaluation panels for the research themes covered by the 2021 AAPG

2021 AAPG reference, §F	Panel name	Panel number
Theme 1.1	Fluid and solid earth	CE01
Theme 1.2	Living earth	CE02
Theme 1.3	Scientific and technological innovations to support the ecological transition	CE04
Theme 1.4	Biology of animals, photosynthetic organisms and micro-organisms	CE20
Theme 1.5	Food and food systems	CE21
Theme 1.6	Dynamics of socio-ecosystems and their components for their sustainable management	CE32
Theme 2.1	Basic energy science	CE50
Theme 2.2	Sustainable, clean, safe and efficient energy	CE05
Theme 2.3	Polymers, composites, soft matter physics and chemistry, processes	CE06
Theme 2.4	Molecular chemistry	CE07
Theme 2.5	Metallic and inorganic materials and associated processes	CE08
Theme 2.6	Chemistry: analysis, theory and modelling	CE29
Theme 3.1	Biochemistry of living organisms	CE44
Theme 3.2	Characterisation of structures and structure-function relationships between biological macromolecules	CE11
Theme 3.3	Genetics, genomics and RNA	CE12
Theme 3.4	Cellular biology, developmental biology and evolution	CE13
Theme 3.5	Physiology and pathophysiology	CE14
Theme 3.6	Immunology, infectiology and inflammation	CE15
Theme 3.7	Molecular and cellular neuroscience - Developmental neurobiology	CE16
Theme 3.8	Integrative and cognitive neuroscience	CE37
Theme 3.9	Translational health research	CE17
Theme 3.10	Biomedical innovation	CE18
Theme 4.1	Innovation, work	CE26
Theme 4.2	Culture, creations, heritage	CE27
Theme 4.3	Cognition, education and training	CE28

Theme 4.4	Inequalities, discrimination, migration	CE41
Theme 5.1	Digital foundations: computer science, automatic control, signal processing	CE48
Theme 5.2	Artificial Intelligence	CE23
Theme 5.3	Micro and nanotechnologies for information and communication processing	CE24
Theme 5.4	Software science and engineering - Multi-purpose communication networks, high-performance infrastructure	CE25
Theme 5.5	Interaction, robotics	CE33
Theme 5.6	Digital models, simulation, applications	CE46
Theme 5.7	Quantum technologies	CE47
Theme 6.1	Mathematics	CE40
Theme 7.1	Physics of condensed matter and diluted matter	CE30
Theme 7.2	Subatomic physics and astrophysics	CE31
Theme 7.3	Planetary science & structure and history of the Earth	CE49
Theme 8.1	Human-environment interactions	CE03
Theme 8.2	Contaminants, ecosystems and health	CE34
Theme 8.3	Infectious diseases and the environment	CE35
Theme 8.4	Public health, health and societies	CE36
Theme 8.5	Mathematics and digital sciences for biology and health	CE45
Theme 8.6	Digital revolution: relationship to knowledge and culture	CE38
Theme 8.7	Healthcare technologies	CE19
Theme 8.8	Global security, Cybersecurity	CE39
Theme 8.9	Bioeconomy: chemistry, biotechnology, processes and system approaches, from bio- mass to usages	CE43
Theme 8.10	Urban societies, territories, construction and mobility	CE22
Theme 8.11	Nanomaterials and nanotechnologies for products of the future	CE09
Theme 8.12	Sensors, instrumentation	CE42
Theme 8.13	Industry and factory of the future: People, organisations, technologies	CE10

E. Annex 3: Special arrangements

E.1. Very large research infrastructure (TGIR)

Projects relying on the resources of very large research infrastructure (TGIR) are asked to make this clear from the time they submit their pre-proposal. The infrastructure in question must be approached to ensure such resources are available, independently of the submission of the proposal to ANR, if the smooth running of the project depends on them. Evidence of this can be provided in the full proposal.

For example, resource requests may be made to GENCI (*Large National Intensive Computing Facility*) for access to computing and storage resources for needs in digital simulation, massive data processing or artificial intelligence.

GENCI can provide computing and storage hardware free of charge, for use in digital simulation and high-performance computing (HPC), at three centres in France (CINES, IDRIS and TGCC) for academic and industrial researchers contributing to open research. Two calls for proposals (January and July) provide openings for applying to obtain resources allocated for a twelve-month period. Applications are then reviewed by specialist panels to determine their level of scientific and technical excellence. More information on national computing centres, access terms and conditions and an information handbook for users can be obtained from: <http://www.edari.fr> and <http://www.genci.fr>

E.2. Competitiveness clusters

Projects wishing to benefit from the label of one or more competitiveness clusters must **declare this in the first stage of the selection process**. PRCI proposals are not eligible for labelling.

No request will be accepted in stage 2.

The scientific coordinator must have the pre-proposal approved by the other partners (including international partners, where applicable) before submitting a labelling request. All project partners are invited to contact the competitiveness clusters concerned **as soon as possible** to find out about their commitments if these clusters decide to support them (including possible membership of the cluster and transmission of mid-term and final project reports). If a proposal successfully obtains a label from a competitiveness cluster, information on the monitoring of the project will also be provided to the competitiveness cluster.

