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Annex for the Franco-German projects

Lead Agency (ANR) procedure

Generic call for proposals 2025

IMPORTANT

The evaluation of the Franco-German projects will be carried out by the ANR only, in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Generic Call for Proposals 2025 (AAPG) [available here](#) to which are added the provisions of this document.

It is essential to read carefully the work programme 2025, the generic call for proposals 2025, the AAPG 2025 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 set-up of the project proposal

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

DFG contacts:

General inquiries

anr-nle@dfg.de

Scientific inquiries

www.dfg.de/en/dfg_profile/head_office/structure/programme_contacts

1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF COLLABORATION WITH GERMANY

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.

In order to simplify and streamline working arrangements, create research funding without borders and contribute to building out the *European Research Area* (ERA), ANR and DFG (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*) have decided to forge a partnership.

The “Lead Agency” procedure has been continued in 2025 for the selection of Franco-German PRCI (“International Collaborative Research Projects”) projects. In this context, a joint project prepared by both countries’ teams is evaluated by a single agency, the “Lead Agency”, which manages projects’ evaluation and selection. Transnational projects compete with the national projects of the Agency conducting the evaluation. The partner agency has access to all information regarding the projects. Each agency funds its respective national teams¹ according to its own procedures.

The two agencies take turns yearly handling the submission, evaluation and selection of projects according to its own procedures. For 2025, **the submission and evaluation of project proposals will be handled by ANR**. The scientific coordinator and other partners of the German part **must nevertheless provide** DFG with certain administrative information in accordance with its own procedures.

The aim of the partnership between the ANR and the DFG is to support projects in which collaboration between the Franco-German partners is genuine².

Within this framework, the partners will ensure the complementarity of the scientific contributions of each country and the added value of international cooperation. As far as possible, the project start and end dates should be the same for the French and foreign partners. For information, the DFG requires a maximum **project duration of 36 months**.

2. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

All fields of science, **with the exception of Humanities and social sciences**. Project proposals in these areas should be submitted under the specific Franco-German call for projects in SSH (FR-

¹ A French team is a partner with an establishment or subsidiary in France.

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

All), including transdisciplinary projects, in cases where they propose an approach largely centred on social and human sciences and/or when the coordinator comes from the humanities and social sciences³.

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

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

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

French partners:

Projects must be submitted within the framework of the "International Collaborative Research Project" process (PRCI) in ANR's 2025 Generic call for proposals.

Foreign partners:

It is essential to provide a copy of the project proposal to the DFG. Instructions for the submission of it as well for any additional documents can be found at the following address:

http://www.dfg.de/france/anr_nle

3.1. EARLY REGISTRATION OF PROPOSALS WITH ANR

The French Scientific Coordinator must **register his/her intention to submit a "PRCI" project** on ANR's submission website before 5 pm (Paris time) on **October the 15th 2024**. **This registering with ANR is mandatory⁴** (cf. §B.4. In the AAPG 2025 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-German PRCI project, the applicant must complete the online form, the content of which is detailed in the AAPG2025 Guide (cf. §B.4.1. *Submitting pre-proposals (PRC/PRCE/PRME/JCJC instruments) and registering (PRCI instrument)*). **Foreign partners** must be clearly identified in the online form, including **German scientific coordinator**.

Particular attention must be paid to the drafting of the abstract (cf. AAPG 2025 Guide, § B.4), which is intended to be sent to reviewers taking part in the evaluation process.

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, PRME,JCJC) are subject to a two-stage selection procedure).

³ The Franco-German call for projects in SSH (FRAL) should be open from mid-December 2024 to mid-March 2025

⁴ It is carried out **only with the ANR**

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. AAPG2025 Guide, §B.4).

3.2. SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS TO ANR

French PRCI project applicants registered before the October 15th 2024 at 5 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, PRME and JCJC funding instruments selected at the AAPG2025 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.

The French coordinator is subject to the rules (including eligibility) that apply to all national scientific coordinators under the Generic call for proposals (see AAPG2025 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 AAPG2025 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 full name of the partner⁵, its acronym and its administrative category
- the foreign coordinator⁶ and the persons involved in the project
- The possible other foreign partners and the participating persons
- The amount of aid requested by the foreign partners from their national agency

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 partners⁷.

Finally, applicants are requested to provide a summary table for each French or foreign partner, with amounts indicated in Euro:

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

⁵ Partner as a legal entity

⁶ The information is essential for the data cross-checking with the DFG

⁷ 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.

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

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

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

Note: if one or more German partners decide to withdraw from the project after the submission of the full proposal, it will not be possible to change the funding instrument given that other funding instrument (PRC, PRCE, PRME, JCJC) are subject to a two-stage selection procedure).

4. 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 AAPG 2025 Guide (cf. §B.5.2 *Eligibility of full proposals*) and detailed below:

- 1) The provisional project proposal duration must be the same for the two country partners.
- 2) The ANR and the DFG exclude commercial companies, industrial technical centres and associations known as technical and/or technological centres.

As foreign agencies have their own eligibility criteria, it is necessary to comply with them. The DFG rules can be found at the following address: http://www.dfg.de/formulare/50_01/50_01_en.pdf

Summary table of the *specific eligibility criteria*⁸

Country (agency)	Submission to the ANR	Submission to the foreign agency	Duration	Participation of a company	Other
Germany (DFG)	yes	copy of the project proposal	24, 30, 36	Not eligible	

⁸ In addition to these eligibility criteria are the criteria of the foreign agency (to be checked with the foreign agency).

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

5. 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 2025, some sub-criteria are specific to the PRCI instrument (cf. *AAPG 2025 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.

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.

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

6. FUNDING PROVISIONS

Each agency will cover expenditures for their respective country's teams **according to its own rules**. ANR's funding regulations are available at: [Règlement financier | ANR](#)

7. SCHEDULE

- Closure of project proposals registration on the ANR website: October, 15th 2024 at 5 pm (Paris time)
- Closure of full proposals submission on the ANR site: end of March 2025 (cf. *AAPG website for updates*)
- DFG schedule: no registration; it is essential to consult the website of the German agency regarding the full proposal submission procedures
- Joint decision and publication of the results: October 2025 (**indicative date**)
- Possible project start date: final quarter 2025 – January 2026 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints