

Annex for Franco – HK Projects

Non-Lead Agency procedure

Generic call for proposals 2026

IMPORTANT

The evaluation of the Franco-HK projects will be carried out by the ANR in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Generic Call for Proposals 2026, [available here](#) to which are added the provisions of this document, and according to the procedure established by the RGC.

It is essential to read carefully the [work programme 2026](#), [the generic call for proposals 2026](#), the [AAPG 2026 guide](#), the rules relating to ANR real cost 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.science@anr.fr: questions about the scientific aspects of the project proposal, about its eligibility with regard to the call criteria, or about its submission on IRIS

aapg.adfi@anr.fr: questions about the administrative and financial set-up of the proposal

RGC contact:

All inquiries should be addressed first to the Research Offices of the respective universities, see the end of this document.

1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF COLLABORATION WITH HONG KONG

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

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

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

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

2. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

All disciplinary fields funded by the ANR and the HK agency with the **exception of the topics related to security** (Axis H.17 "*Global security, resilience and crisis management, cybersecurity*") corresponding to the scientific evaluation panel CE39) .

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

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

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

French partners:

Projects proposals must be submitted within the framework of the PRCI ("International Collaborative Research Project") funding instrument in ANR's 2026 Generic call for proposals, according to its terms and schedule.

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

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

Foreign partners:

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

3.1. EARLY REGISTRATION OF PROPOSALS TO ANR

The French Scientific Coordinator must **register his/her intention to submit a "PRCI" project** on ANR's submission website before 5pm (Paris time) on **October 14th, 2025**. **This registering with ANR is mandatory** (cf. §B.4. In the AAPG 2026 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-HK PRCI project, the applicant must complete the online form, the content of which is detailed in the AAPG2026 Guide (cf. §B.4.1. *Submitting pre-proposals (PRC/PRME/JCJC instruments) and registering (PRCE and PRCI funding instrument)*). **Foreign partners** must be clearly identified in the online form.

Particular attention must be paid to the drafting of the abstract (cf. AAPG 2026 Guide, § B.4), in the framework of the evaluation process, the abstract is intended to be transmitted for the reviewers solicitation.

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

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

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

The acronym chosen and the name of the French coordinator are definitive and cannot be modified when the full proposal is submitted. This also applies to the choice of the scientific evaluation panel (cf. AAPG2026 Guide, §B.4).

3.2. SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS TO ANR

French PRCI project applicants registered before the **14th of October 2025** 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, PRME and JCJC funding instruments selected at the AAPG2026 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 *AAPG2026 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 *AAPG2026 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 partner³, its acronym and its administrative category
- the foreign coordinator⁴ 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: indicated in each of **the national currencies**, and its equivalent in euros

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 partners⁵.

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

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

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

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

³ Partner as a legal entity

⁴ The information is essential for the data cross-checking with the RGC

⁵ 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.

				PostDoc to be hired in the frame of the project?	Task number?	
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(* to be indicated with respect to the total project duration)

Note: if one or more HK 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, 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 AAPG2026 Guide (cf. §B.5.2 *Eligibility of full proposals*) and detailed below:

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

As foreign agencies have their own eligibility criteria, it is necessary to comply with them. Please read the call text published by the Hong Kong funding agency.

Summary table of the *specific eligibility criteria*⁶

Country (agency)	Submission to the ANR	Submission to the foreign agency	Duration	Participation of a company ⁷	Other
Hong Kong (RGC)	yes	yes	Projects proposals duration of 36 or 48 months only	If there is a HK company, the presence of a French company is mandatory	quota of a maximum of 5 projects per Hong Kong UGC-funded university (pre-selection by the university of the foreign applicant). ANR will relay on the list of eligible projects proposals sent by the RGC

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

5. EVALUATION

The projects are evaluated in parallel by ANR and by the foreign agency according to their own evaluation procedure. Each project is thus evaluated on both sides. The evaluation by the ANR is carried out according to the same main criteria used for projects submitted as part of another

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

⁷ Cf. definition in ANR's Regulations for allocating grants

funding instrument within the generic call for proposals 2026, with nevertheless some specific sub-criteria for the PRCI funding instrument, in particular related to the project's capacity to respond to the research challenges of the chosen scientific axis. (*cf. AAPG2026 Guide § B.5.3. Evaluation of full proposals*).

With regard to the sub-criterion “*Adequacy of the resources implemented and requested with the objectives of the project*” of the **Criterion 2 “Organisation and implementation of the project”**, the economic context of the partners’ countries is taken into account. Project coordinators are informed that under the bilateral agreement, **the RGC will provide HK partners with a maximum funding of HK \$ 3 million (exclusive of on-costs) or approximately 360 k€ per project** for the duration of the project. Applicants are invited to submit projects that justify ANR funding for indicative amounts of 250-360 k€⁸, including for basic research projects.

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

6. FUNDING PROVISIONS

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

The ANR funding rules are available at this address <https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>

7. SCHEDULE

- Closure of proposals registration on the ANR website: **14th October 2025** at 5 pm (Paris time)
- Closure of full proposals submission on the ANR website: end of March 2026 (*cf. AAPG website for updates*)
- RGC schedule: it is essential to consult the website of the Hong Kong agency

Hong Kong applicants should submit one hard copy and one soft copy of the same joint proposal together with the Application Supplement Form (ANR/RGC 1), through the Research Offices of their universities, to the RGC by 5pm (Hong Kong time) on the third working day counting from the submission deadline of the joint proposal as specified by the ANR in due course

- Joint decision and publication of the results: October 2026 (indicative date)
- Possible project start date: final quarter 2026 – January 2027 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints.

⁸ Indicative range corresponding to the budget range given by the Hong Kong funding agency. The budget request made to the ANR must be adapted to the scientific objectives of the project with regard to the sub-criterion “*Adequacy of the resources implemented and requested with the objectives of the project*”

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON RGC CONTACT POINTS:

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