

# Annex for the Franco-Swiss projects

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## Lead Agency (ANR) procedure

### Generic call for proposals 2023

#### IMPORTANT

The evaluation of the Franco-Swiss projects will be carried out by the ANR only, in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Generic Call for Proposals 2023 (AAPG) **available [here](#)** to which are added the provisions of this document.

It is essential to read carefully **[the work programme 2023](#)**, the generic call for proposals 2023, the AAPG 2023 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](mailto:aapg.adfi@anr.fr): questions about the administrative and financial arrangements

[aapg.science@anr.fr](mailto:aapg.science@anr.fr): questions about the scientific aspects of the project proposal

[aapg.si@anr.fr](mailto:aapg.si@anr.fr): difficulties encountered when entering data or during document submission on the website

#### SNSF contacts:

Social Sciences and Humanities: *Paul Pignat* [paul.pignat@snf.ch](mailto:paul.pignat@snf.ch)

Mathematics and Engineering Sciences: *Julien Leuthold* [julien.leuthold@snf.ch](mailto:julien.leuthold@snf.ch)

Biology and Medicine: *Ngoc Dung* [projects.ls@snf.ch](mailto:projects.ls@snf.ch)

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## 1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF COLLABORATION WITH SWITZERLAND

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

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

To simplify and streamline the terms of collaboration and to set up borderless research funding areas, thus contributing to the development of the European Research Area (ERA), ANR and SNSF (*Schweizerischer Nationalfonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung, Swiss National Science Foundation*) have decided to enter into a Lead Agency type of agreement. Within this framework, the teams from the two countries prepare a joint project and one single agency (the Lead Agency) takes charge of the whole evaluation process (peer review and scientific panel evaluation) of the projects. Transnational projects compete with the national projects of the agency carrying out the evaluation. The partner agency can access all information on the projects. Each agency provides funding for its national teams<sup>1</sup> according to its own terms.

The two agencies alternate years handling projects submission, evaluation and selection in accordance with their individual procedures to facilitate the setting up and implementation of high-quality scientific projects proposed jointly by French and Swiss research teams.

In 2023, **the submission and evaluation of project proposals will be handled by the ANR**. However, the Swiss scientific coordinator and the other Swiss partners must provide SNSF with certain administrative details in accordance with this agency's specific terms.

The purpose of the partnership between ANR and SNSF is to support projects in which there is genuine<sup>2</sup> collaboration between Franco-Swiss partners. Within this framework, partners will ensure the complementarity of the scientific contributions of each country and the added value of European cooperation. Insofar as possible, the French and foreign partners' projects must start and finish on the same dates.

## 2. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The bi-lateral agreement with Switzerland covers all the disciplinary fields funded by ANR and SNSF.

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<sup>1</sup> A French team is a partner with an institution or branch in France

<sup>2</sup> Objectives defined jointly, shared skills and tasks, shared risks and results

### 3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

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

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

#### **French partners:**

Projects must be submitted within the framework of the "International Collaborative Research Project" process (PRCI) in ANR's 2023 Generic call for proposals.

#### **Foreign partners:**

**It is essential to check with SNSF whether a copy of the project proposal, or any additional documents is necessary to be provided, in accordance with this agency's specific terms.**

<https://www.snf.ch/en/Shcb21B7T7hmJBwM/funding/projects/lead-agency-process>

#### **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 **November the 7<sup>th</sup> 2022**. **This registering with ANR is mandatory** (cf. §B.4. In the AAPG 2023 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-Swiss PRCI project, the applicant must complete the online form, the content of which is detailed in the AAPG2023 Guide (cf. §B.4.1. *Submitting pre-proposals (PRC/PRCE/PRME/JCJC instruments) and registering (PRCI instrumentI)*). **Foreign partners** must be clearly identified in the online form.

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

*Note: if one or more foreign partners decide to withdraw from the project proposal between the registration of an "International Collaborative Research Project" (PRCI) and the submission of a full proposal, it will not be possible to change the funding instrument given that other funding instrument (PRC, PRCE, PRME,JCJC) are subject to a two-stage selection procedure).*

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

**The acronym chosen and the name of the French coordinator are definitive and cannot be modified when the full proposal is submitted. This also applies to the choice of the scientific evaluation panel** (cf. AAPG2023 Guide, §B.4).

### 3.2. SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS TO ANR

French PRCI project applicants registered before the November the 7<sup>th</sup> 2022 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 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 *AAPG2023 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 *AAPG2023 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 partner<sup>3</sup>, its acronym and its administrative category
- the foreign coordinator<sup>4</sup> 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 partners<sup>5</sup>.

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, SNSF).

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

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<sup>3</sup> Partner as a legal entity

<sup>4</sup> The information is essential for the data cross-checking with the SNSF

<sup>5</sup> With regard to the sub-criterion "*Adequacy of the resources implemented and requested for the objectives of the project*" of criterion 2 "*Organization and implementation of the project*", the resources mobilized and requested by the French partners AND by the foreign partners will be assessed.

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

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

**Note:** if one or more swiss 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).

#### 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 2023 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.

As foreign agencies have their own eligibility criteria, it is necessary to comply with them . The SNSF rules can be found at the following adresse:

<https://www.snf.ch/en/WAVYcY7awAUGoIST/funding/projects/projects-in-all-disciplines>

Summary table of the *specific eligibility criteria*<sup>6</sup>

Country (agency)	Submission to the ANR	Submission to the foreign agency	Duration	Participation of a company <sup>7</sup>	Other
Switzerland (SNSF)	yes	copy of the project proposal	24, 30, 36, 42, 48	ANR eligible SNSF not eligible	

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

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

<sup>7</sup> Cf. definition in ANR’s Regulations for allocating grants

## 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 2023, some sub-criteria are specific to the PRCI instrument (cf. *AAPG 2023 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**<sup>8</sup>.

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: <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/financer-votre-projet/reglement-financier/>

## 7. SCHEDULE

- Closure of project proposals registration on the ANR website: November, 7<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 5 pm (Paris time)
- Closure of full proposals submission on the ANR site: end of March 2023 (*cf. AAPG website for updates*)
- SNSF schedule: no registration; it is essential to consult the website of the Swiss agency regarding the full proposal submission procedures
- Joint decision and publication of the results: October 2023 (**indicative date**)
- Possible project start date: final quarter 2023 – January 2024 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints.