

Lead Agency Procedure 2020 with Switzerland (SNSF, Swiss National Science Foundation)

Under the Lead Agency Procedure, a joint application by researchers in Switzerland and the French-speaking part of Belgium can be submitted to one of the two research funding organisations. The submission process is governed by the provisions in force at the relevant organisation.

Lead Agency proposals must have a joint research question and a joint research plan. According to the Lead Agency Agreement, the project parts carried out in the individual countries must be interdependent and complementary. The costs are calculated based on the relevant national guidelines.

The Lead Agency Procedure is not a funding scheme in its own right and the submitted proposals fall under the procedures of the Research Project (PDR - *Projet de Recherche*) instrument of the F.R.S.-FNRS. It does not have its own budget and is subject to the same provisions that govern funding for PDR's. Hence applicants may only submit a Lead Agency application if there are no thematic overlaps with applications being evaluated at the F.R.S.-FNRS or with ongoing projects.

1. INSTRUMENTS

- For the F.R.S.-FNRS, the **Research Project (PDR)** instrument is open to the Lead Agency process with the SNSF. The [PDR rules and regulations](#)¹ adopted by the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS on the 5th of December 2019 are applicable for this participation.

Each Promoter needs to comply with all the cumulation rules as detailed in the Annex 2 of the rules and regulations cited above, with the exception of **the cumulation of submission**, which is authorised between the PDR SNSF call 2020 and the Credits and Projects call concerning the instrument PDR. The Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS will decide on the rules of cumulation of granting that will be put in place between the PDR SNSF 2020 and the PDR 2020, in the case where both funds decide to award distinct projects, at its meeting in April 2020.

- For the SNSF, the funding instrument open to the Lead Agency process with the F.R.S.-FNRS is Project Funding. Rules and regulations for eligibility for and participation in this instrument can be found on the [website of the SNSF](#).

2. SUBMISSION IN 2020

The F.R.S.-FNRS and the SNSF have agreed to take turns as the Lead Agency on a yearly basis. In 2018, Lead Agency applications with Switzerland may only be submitted to the SNSF, regardless of whether the larger portion of the project budget is requested in Switzerland or in Belgium.

- **Deadline for submission at the SNSF: 8th April 2020 at 5 p.m. (initially scheduled for the 1st of April)**

The application is submitted as a whole; the research plan must include a description of the overall project and the specific roles of the sub-projects conducted in different countries.

¹ With the exception of the date that determines the eligibility of the main promoter-applicant and any co-promoter. This date is fixed on the validation deadline set for the academic authorities (rectors) instead of the 15th of November of the year of submitting, as explained in the "Important remarks" under 3.1.

Separate budget plans must be submitted for the individual sub-projects. Please enter the budget for the Swiss part in [mySNF](#). The Belgian budget has to be entered in the [budget form](#).

➤ **Deadlines² for parallel submission at the F.R.S.-FNRS (mandatory) in 2020:**

MAIN PROMOTER	CO-PROMOTERS	RECTOR
Wednesday 15 th April At 2 p.m.	Friday 17 th April At 2 p.m.	Tuesday 21 st April At 2 p.m.

For administrative reasons Belgian promoter-applicants also need to submit the proposal to the F.R.S.-FNRS. In order to do so, they need to request access to a proposal on [e-space](#) by sending an e-mail to credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be in which they stipulate the identities (name, surname, e-mail, institution) of the main promoter and the co-promoters.

3. IMPORTANT REMARKS

3.1 Eligibility

The eligibility criteria of the main promoter-applicant and co-promoter-applicant are to be found in the [F.R.S.-FNRS PDR rules and regulations](#) (articles 4 and 5).

3.2 Duration and start of PDR SNSF 2020 projects

The duration of the projects is 4 years for both countries concerned.

F.R.S.-FNRS PDR's will start in January 2021. Although the Swiss partners can start within a year after the funding decision, we recommend coordinating the starting phase among the involved research groups.

3.3 Language of the proposal

If you prefer to submit your Lead Agency proposal in a language other than English, you will need to discuss this with all involved agencies in advance.

3.4 Evaluation

Please note that lead agency applications take longer to evaluate than regular projects as the process needs to be coordinated with the partner organisation.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES:

- If you have any questions on the Lead agency process, please contact joel.groeneveld@frs-fnrs.be
- [Lead Agency process with Belgium, Wallonia-Brussels Federation \(SNSF website\)](#)
- [Budget form \(excel\)](#)
- [F.R.S.-FNRS PDR rules and regulations](#)

² All times are Brussels local time.