

Lead Agency process with the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (French-speaking Belgium)

Introduction

Under the Lead Agency process, a joint application by researchers in Switzerland and the French-speaking part of Belgium can be submitted to one of the two national 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 process forms part of the SNSF's project funding scheme and is not a funding scheme in its own right. It does not have its own budget and is subject to the same provisions that govern project funding. Hence applicants may only submit a Lead Agency application if there are no thematic overlaps with applications being evaluated at the SNSF or with ongoing projects.

1. General conditions

1.1 Funding schemes

The following SNSF funding schemes are open to the Lead Agency process:

- Project Funding

The following F.R.S-FNRS funding schemes are open to the Lead Agency process:

- Research Project - PDR

1.2 Universities from the Wallonia-Brussels Federation

Collaborative projects with researchers from the following universities can be submitted:

- Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL)
- Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
- Université de Liège (ULiège)
- Université de Mons (UMons)
- Université de Namur (UNamur)
- Université Saint-Louis - Bruxelles (USL-B)

1.3 General conditions

In both countries, the maximum project duration is four years.

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

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.

1.4 Success rate

Please note that the success rates of the F.R.S-FNRS are around 20% and therefore considerably lower than those of the SNSF.

2. Submission

2.1 Submission 2018

The SNSF and the F.R.S-FNRS have agreed to take turns as the Lead Agency on a yearly basis. In 2018, Lead Agency applications with Wallonia had to be submitted to the SNSF. The submission is closed for this year. The next deadline will probably be in April 2019

2.2 Project start

The F.R.S-FNRS asks the researchers to start with their project in January 2019. Although the Swiss partners can start within a year after the funding decision, we recommend to coordinate the starting phase among the involved research groups.

2.3 SNSF as Lead Agency

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.

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](#).

For administrative reasons the Belgian candidate promoters also need to submit the proposal the F.R.S.-FNRS. In order to do so, they need to request access to a proposal on [Sémaphore](#) by sending

an e-mail to credits-projets@frs-fnrs.be in which they stipulate the identities (name, surname, e-mail, institution) of all the promoters.

2.3.1 Submission via *mySNF*

The Lead Agency process is part of the SNSF's project funding scheme and is not a funding scheme in its own right. **When creating a new application in mySNF, select Project Funding Division I-III.** Enter the Belgian project partners as further applicants. In the data container "Lead Agency and other agreements", select Lead Agency SNSF and the partner organisation Belgium -F.R.S-FNRS. Enter the budget of the Swiss sub-project in the data container "Requested funding". For the Belgium budget, fill in the [budget form](#) and upload it in the data container "Lead Agency and other agreements". The CV and research output list of the Wallonian partners have to be submitted based on the SNSF guidelines. The DMP is an integral part of the grant proposal and its content is directly entered in the mySNF submission form. The DMP applies to all research data that will be produced or reused during the course of the project.

2.3.2 Evaluation

The overall project is evaluated by the evaluation body of the relevant SNSF division. The regular evaluation procedure also applies to Lead Agency applications.

2.4 F.R.S-FNRS as Lead Agency

If the F.R.S-FNRS is the Lead Agency, the entire project will be submitted to F.R.S-FNRS through its electronic submission system Sémaphore: <https://applications.frs-fnrs.be/>.

The Swiss part of the application is governed by the SNSF conditions (formal requirements for Swiss applicants, budget of Swiss sub-project and thematic overlap with other SNSF projects). The project is evaluated by the F.R.S-FNRS and ratified by the SNSF.

2.4.1 Submission via *mySNF*

For administrative reasons, you also need to submit the application to the SNF via the *mySNF* platform.

The Lead Agency process forms part of the SNSF's project funding scheme and is not a funding scheme in its own right. **When creating a new application in mySNF, select Project Funding Division I-III.** Enter the Belgian project partners as further applicants. In the data container "Lead Agency and other agreements", select Lead Agency Partner Organisation and the partner organisation Belgium -F.R.S-FNRS. Enter the budget of the Swiss project part in the data container "Requested funding". For the Belgian budget, fill in the [budget form](#) and upload it in the data container "Lead Agency and other agreements". The research plan must be identical to the one submitted to F.R.S-FNRS. The CVs and research output of the research partners abroad are not required.

As the F.R.S-FNRS does not request a data management plan (DMP), the content of the DMP must be entered in the mySNF submission form. In particular, this is also the case when the F.R.S-FNRS acts as lead agency. The DMP applies to all research data that will be produced or reused during the course of the project.

3. Participation requirements

The same conditions are applied as for the [project funding](#).

4. Contact details

Division I
Paul Pignat
Div1@snf.ch
031 308 22 22

Division II
Cornelia Sommer
leadagency.div2@snf.ch
031 308 22 22

Division III
Barbara Schellenberg
Div3@snf.ch
031 308 22 22

5. Documents and links

[FRS-FNRS Website call 2018](#)
[Budget form ANR-DFG-FNR-F.R.S FNRS-FWF-FWO](#)
[Documents and downloads](#)

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