

Lead Agency process with Belgium, Flanders (FWO)

Introduction

Under the Lead Agency process, a joint application by researchers in Switzerland and Flanders (The Flemish Community 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 on the basis of 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 FWO funding schemes are open to the Lead Agency process:

- Project funding

1.2 Flemish universities

Collaborative projects with researchers from the following eligible host institution can be submitted:

- KULeuven
- UGent
- VUB (Brussels)

- UAntwerpen
- UHasselt

For further information [see article 3 of regulation for regular FWO research projects](#).

1.3 General conditions

The proposals have to be submitted in English.

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(s).

1.4 Success rate

Please note that the success rates of the FWO are around 20% and therefore considerably lower than those of the SNSF.

2. Submission

2.1 Submission 2018

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

Flemish main applicants that were awarded a regular FWO research project (including the Lead Agency projects with Slovenia, Luxembourg, Austria, and Switzerland) in the previous (2017) application round, are not eligible to submit an SNSF-FWO project in 2018.

2.2 Project start

The FWO 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 Flemish budget has to be entered in the [budget form](#). 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.

The Belgium partners submit a detailed budget to the FWO. This document can be found in the section Regulations and Downloads of the [FWO webpage](#).

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 Flemish project partners as further applicants. Enter the budget of the Swiss sub-project in the data container "Requested funding". For the Flemish 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 Flemish 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 FWO as Lead Agency

If FWO is the Lead Agency, the entire project will be submitted to FWO.

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 FWO 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 Flemish project partners as further applicants. Enter the budget of the Swiss project part in the data container "Requested funding". For the Flemish 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 the FWO. The CVs and research output of the research partners abroad are not required.

Since the FWO requests a Data Management Plan (DMP) together with the proposal, it is not mandatory to enter the content of the DMP in the mySNF submission form. If you choose not to submit a DMP by selecting the option "The DMP is already requested by the partner organization", please upload a PDF version of your DMP under "Other annexes". 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

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5. Documents and links

[FWO Website](#)
[FWO Guidelines \(Link geändert\)](#)
Budget form [ANR-DFG-FNR-F.R.S FNRS-FWF-FWO](#)

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