

Lead Agency Process with Germany, Austria and Luxembourg

Agreement between SNSF and Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR) Luxembourg as well as agreement between SNSF, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) Germany and Wissenschaftsfonds (FWF) Austria

1. Principle

In the Lead Agency Process, a joint application is submitted by researchers in Switzerland, Luxembourg, Germany and/or Austria to one of the four research funding organisations, SNSF, FNR, DFG or FWF following the routine local procedure. This Lead Agency notifies the partner organisations of the application so there is no need for a double submission. With Luxembourg only bilateral proposals are possible; with Germany and Austria, also trilateral proposals are possible.

The 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.

2. Definition of the Lead Agency

In principle, the Lead Agency is located in the country in which the requested funding amount is highest. In unclear or borderline cases, the funding organisations involved must be contacted to determine the Lead Agency prior to submission.

3. Procedure

3.1 SNSF as Lead Agency

If the requested funding amount is highest in Switzerland, the application for funding is addressed to the SNSF. Lead Agency Process applications can be submitted to the SNSF by the usual project funding submission dates of 1 October and 1 April, or in response to a call (Programmes division). Submission is via the mySNF electronic platform using the standard forms for the required project type. **For proposals with Germany and/or Austria the comparative cost overview sheet has to be filled out and uploaded to mySNF.**

In addition, your partners in Austria and Luxembourg fill in the forms for the partner organisation(s), which you then upload in mySNF as an attachment. Your German partners

enter the relevant data in the electronic system elan of the DFG. You will find the relevant forms or information under the links below.

The application is submitted as a whole, including a description of the overall project and the specific roles of the sub-projects conducted in the individual countries. A separate budget plan must also be submitted for the individual sub-project. The evaluation of the overall project is conducted by the customary evaluation committee of the relevant SNSF division. Lead Agency applications are evaluated through the same procedure as regular applications, making the chances of success equal. **There is no additional budget earmarked for Lead Agency projects. Lead Agency proposals must not have any thematic overlaps with other proposals submitted to the SNSF or with already funded projects.**

Please note that due to the coordination with the partner organisation(s) the evaluation usually takes longer than the evaluation of regular projects.

If you would like to submit your Lead Agency proposal in any other language than English (possible only in certain areas of the humanities and social sciences), you will need to discuss this with all the involved agencies in advance.

With regard to FWF: If Austrian partners are involved, the application must be either in English or in two languages, one of which must be English and the other German or another language that is relevant to the discipline. Exceptions may be granted exclusively in literary studies and linguistics and must be approved by the presiding board of the FWF before submission. In such cases, please contact the FWF as early as possible.

For researchers in the areas of Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences (Division II) and Biology and Medicine (Division III): The responsible division must be contacted before submitting an application in the Lead Agency Process.

Lead Agency applications need to include cost justifications for all parts of the project.

The following SNSF funding instruments are open to the Lead Agency Procedure:

In collaboration with FNR:

- Scientific projects in independent basic research (Div. I-III and CoRe)

In collaboration with FWF:

- Scientific projects in independent basic research (Div. I-III and CoRe)
- National Research Programmes in targeted research (Programmes division): participation at project level possible; researchers in Germany and Austria are allowed to submit proposals with Swiss main applicants.

In collaboration with DFG:

- Scientific projects in independent basic research (Div. I-III and CoRe)
- National Research Programmes (NRP) (Programmes division): participation at project level possible; researchers in Germany and Austria are allowed to submit proposals with Swiss main applicants.

3.2 FNR, FWF or DFG as Lead Agency

If the requested funding amount is highest in Luxembourg, Austria or Germany, the funding application is submitted to the relevant organisation. In this case, the same (FNR, FWF or DFG) rules apply as for regular projects of the respective project type and the same forms are used. However, the SNSF eligibility and funding rules apply for the applicants based in Switzerland.

Lead Agency proposals must not have any thematic overlaps with other proposals submitted to the SNSF or with already funded projects.

If you would like to submit your Lead Agency proposal in any other language than English (possible only in certain areas of the humanities and social sciences), you will need to discuss this with all the involved agencies in advance.

For researchers in the areas of Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences (Division II) and Biology and Medicine (Division III): Researchers are requested to inform the relevant SNSF-division about their application prior to submitting it to FNR, FWF or DFG.

For proposals with Germany and/or Austria the comparative cost overview sheet has to be filled out and attached to the application.

In addition, two forms detailing the essentials are to be completed for the SNSF: the "Form SNSF LA" and the "Form SNSF Budget LA" (see links).

Lead Agency applications need to include cost justifications for all parts of the project.

The following instruments are open to the Lead Agency Procedure with SNSF as partner agency:

FNR:

- Scientific projects in independent basic research with an international element (CORE programme)

FWF:

- Scientific projects in independent basic research

DFG:

- Scientific projects in independent basic research
- Research units: up to two Swiss modules
- Priority Programmes (SPP): participation at project level possible, researchers in Switzerland may submit applications under German project leadership

7 August 2014