

**Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Programme  
Joint Research Projects: Call for Proposals 2022/2023**

**Closing date: 15 February 2023**

A maximum of 12 joint projects will be funded.

## 1 Introduction

The Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Programme was initiated by the Korean and Swiss governments in 2008 in order to further step up the bilateral cooperation in scientific and technological areas of relevance to both countries. The cooperation is based on the principles of reciprocity, parity and activity-matching funding.

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) were mandated to launch a call for Joint Research Projects (JRPs), organise the evaluation of the submitted proposals and monitor the funded projects.

## 2 Joint Research Projects

Grants for Joint Research Projects (JRPs) are aimed at promoting collaborative projects with clearly defined goals, involving at least one partner based in Switzerland and one based in Korea. Applications should describe ambitious research and propose innovative approaches. The research is to be carried out at the research facilities involved; reciprocal visits and short stays in Switzerland for researchers from Korea and vice versa are also possible within the scope of a JRP.

**The project duration is exactly 3 years.** Proposals for projects that are longer or shorter than three years are not eligible and will not be accepted.

## 3 Research Fields

In order to make targeted use of the financial resources available, the following thematic areas were chosen for this call:

- Climate change (interdisciplinary topic, SSH parts are possible)
- Digital health (interdisciplinary topic, SSH parts are possible)
- Systems biology

Proposals outside the thematic areas will not be accepted.

## 4 Eligibility

Each proposal for a JRP must have at least one corresponding applicant based in Switzerland and one corresponding applicant based in Korea. They bear the main responsibility for the project, including its

technical and administrative coordination as well as the timely delivery of scientific and financial reports. Further applicants based in Switzerland and/or Korea can also participate in the consortia. Each applicant can only submit one proposal.

#### **Eligibility criteria in Switzerland**

The corresponding and further applicants must all meet the eligibility criteria of the SNSF. The eligibility criteria for the corresponding and further applicants are identical. The SNSF [Funding Regulations](#), the [General implementation regulations](#) and the [Regulations on Project Funding](#) are applicable mutatis mutandis where not stated otherwise.

Applicants can submit a proposal to the joint bilateral call even if they hold another SNSF grant or have applied for one. Moreover, grantees may submit proposals to all SNSF funding schemes during the funding period of a JRP, provided that there is no substantial thematic overlap. Please note that the present call is not in conflict with the restrictions applicable to the SNSF's national project funding in accordance with Article 13 of the Regulations on Project Funding.

Project partners as described in Article 11.2 of the SNSF Funding Regulations are not entitled to receive funds from the SNSF if their affiliated institution is located in Korea.

#### **Eligibility criteria in Korea**

Korean applicants should abide by the applicable laws and regulations of the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT).

## **5 Funding**

JRP proposals include two separate budgets: one budget in CHF for the Swiss part of the project (paid by the SNSF according to the SNSF's rules) and one budget in KRW for the Korean part of the project (paid by the NRF according to the NRF's rules). The two countries have agreed to fund up to 12 projects if a sufficient number of proposals of high quality are submitted.

- The total budget available in Switzerland is CHF 3,000,000. The maximum budget available for the Swiss side of a project is CHF 250,000.
- The total budget available in Korea is KRW 3,240 million. The maximum budget available for the Korean side of a project is KRW 270 million.

For the funds requested in Switzerland, please refer to the respective data container on *mySNF*. Regarding the funds requested in Korea, fill out the financial form provided in Annex 1 and submit the requested funds to the Integrated R&D Information System.

### Eligible costs in Switzerland

- The salaries of scientific and technical staff in research projects within the scope of the salary ranges and rates prescribed by the SNSF;
- material costs that are directly related to the research work, namely material of enduring value, expendable items, field expenses, travel expenses, third-party charges, cost of computing time and data as well as of providing open access to research data;
- direct costs incurred through the use of research infrastructure linked to the research work;
- costs for the organisation of conferences and workshops in connection with the funded research;
- costs for national and international cooperation and networking activities carried out in connection with the funded research.

The SNSF regulations apply to the Swiss budget. However, overhead costs are not admissible. Please note that costs for open access publications can be requested separately via the OA platform of the SNSF.

### Eligible costs in Korea

Please abide by the applicable laws and regulations of the Ministry of Science and ICT of Korea.

## 6 Submission

Proposals are to be jointly prepared by Swiss and Korean applicants. They must be submitted by the Swiss corresponding applicant to the SNSF via its electronic submission system *mySNF* ([www.mysnf.ch](http://www.mysnf.ch)).

The Korean corresponding applicant must submit the same research plan (English and Korean versions) through Korea's national electronic submission system ([iris.go.kr](http://iris.go.kr)).

**Proposals that are only submitted to one of the two funding agencies are ineligible.**

Hardcopies will not be accepted. Neither the SNSF nor the NRF will be held responsible for non-submission of an application.

**Submission on *mySNF*:** After login into *mySNF*, the correct funding scheme must be chosen: Programmes (national and international) > Bilateral Cooperation (Initiatives of the State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation) > Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Programme (KSSTP).

The application consists of two parts:

- The administrative part, which must be completed directly on *mySNF*.

- Personal data of the corresponding applicant in Switzerland
  - Personal data of the corresponding applicant in Korea
  - Personal data of further applicant(s) in Switzerland and/or Korea
  - Data of project partners
  - Information on the employment of all applicants
  - Basic data on the project (e.g. title, research field, starting date, duration, summary)
  - Funding requested from the SNSF
  - Information on authorizations required
  - Data Management Plan (DMP)
  - Other information (e.g., whether the project is related to other SNSF projects, name of the Swiss university/research institution at which the planned project will be implemented, information concerning national and international collaborations, information concerning already available funds or funds requested elsewhere).
- PDF documents that are to be uploaded to *mySNF*:
    - The research plan (**must follow the structure indicated in Annex 1**)
    - The CVs and publication lists of all applicants (in Switzerland and Korea)
    - Equipment quotes (if applicable)

All the information provided in the administrative part and all uploaded documents must be in English.

For specific questions related to [www.mysnf.ch](http://www.mysnf.ch), please contact the support team by e-mail ([mysnf.support@snf.ch](mailto:mysnf.support@snf.ch)) or telephone (+41 31 308 22 00). Please note that you need a user account in order to submit proposals via *mySNF*. To open an account on *mySNF*, please register with the SNSF as a user. Applicants with existing user accounts need not apply for new ones.

**Please note that the SNSF uses a new CV format. Filling in the information might take some additional time. It is advised that CVs for all applicants are submitted in the new format on *mySNF*, even though it is only mandatory for Swiss applicants.**

The proposal must include a Data Management Plan (DMP) set up according to the requirements issued by the SNSF. The proposal can only be submitted once the DMP has been completed. Applicants must enter a DMP that is understandable, suits their project and meets the standards set by their research community. At this stage, the DMP is considered a draft and is excluded from the evaluation process and not shared with external reviewers. A definitive DMP must be provided by the end of the project at the latest. The content of the DMP is directly entered in the *mySNF* submission form. It is not possible to upload a DMP as a separate PDF file. Please keep in mind the time needed to complete the DMP during the submission procedure.

The submitted documents must comply with the principles of scientific integrity, and all applicants – i.e. corresponding applicants and further applicants from either country – will be held accountable for any breaches. In cases of suspected scientific misconduct, all applicants will be asked to provide a statement.

**Deadline for submission of applications**

Switzerland: 15 February 2023, 17:00 local time

Korea: 15 February 2023, 6 pm local time (submission system open as of 1 February)

Applications need to be submitted to both funding agencies. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

## 7 Evaluation

The joint call will be evaluated jointly by the SNSF and the NRF. The process consists of the following steps:

**Peer review:** Proposals for JRPs will be reviewed according to standard international peer review procedures, jointly organised by the SNSF and the NRF, including international as well as Korean reviews. External experts conduct a peer review of the applications, evaluating the scientific quality of JRPs.

**Evaluation panel:** An evaluation panel will be set up, composed of experts proposed by the SNSF and the NRF. Based on the peer reviews and the panel members' own assessment, the evaluation panel will rate and rank the proposals. The panel members' recommendations will include a rationale for the rating.

**Decision:** The 12 highest-ranked proposals will be funded, regardless of the research area. At the SNSF, the ranking list and the projects proposed for funding must be approved by the Specialised Committee for International Co-operation and the Presiding Board. At NRF, it must be approved by the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT). By undergoing this procedure, the projects will be considered as approved by the Korean-Swiss Joint Committee.

**The criteria used to evaluate the scientific quality of the proposals:**

- Scientific relevance
- Originality of the aims and objectives
- Appropriateness of the methodology and feasibility
- Track record and expertise of the researchers
- Complementarity of the research partners

**The evaluation results will be communicated in autumn 2023.** Swiss corresponding applicants will receive a decision letter from the SNSF. In case of rejection, the main reasons leading to the decision will be given. In case of approval, the Swiss budget and the conditions will be listed. If applicable, the

Swiss main applicant will be responsible for transmitting the decision to the other Swiss applicants. The decisions are not subject to appeal. The Korean corresponding applicant will be informed by the NRF.

**Starting date for the JRP in Korea:** 1 October 2023

**Starting date for the JRP in Switzerland:** Between 1 October 2023 and 1 December 2023.

It is advisable that the JRPs also start on 1 October 2023 in Switzerland.

## 8 Reporting

Swiss and Korean corresponding applicants will report separately to the SNSF and the NRF.

### **In Switzerland:**

The Swiss corresponding applicant will be responsible for reporting to the SNSF. Standard SNSF regulations apply both for the financial and the scientific reports. The latter include a qualitative and a quantitative part (output data).

### **In Korea:**

The Korean corresponding applicant will be responsible for reporting to the NRF. Both for scientific and financial reports, the standard NRF regulations will apply. However, scientific reports will need to be submitted through [Integrated R&D Information System \(iris.go.kr\)](https://iris.go.kr) annually.

## 9 Payment

### **In Switzerland:**

Standard SNSF rules apply. In principle, the budgets for JRPs are transferred in annual instalments to the Swiss corresponding applicant at the beginning of a project year.

### **In Korea:**

Korean researchers will be funded under the Regulation for the National R&D Program Management of Korea. In principle, the budgets for JRPs are transferred in annual instalments to the Korean PI at the beginning of a project year.

## 10 VAT

### **In Switzerland:**

The JRP grants are not subject to VAT or other taxes and charges. However, research expenses are not excluded from VAT. Therefore, all eligible costs occurred during a JRP (e.g. equipment, consumables, etc.) can be charged to the programme, including VAT, unless the research institution (e.g. universities, public research organisations, etc.) is able to recover VAT.

## 11 Publications and Intellectual Property

The PIs are obliged to publish research results generated by the JRPs in appropriate form and according to SNSF and NRF standards.

Intellectual property rights belong to the respective researchers and/or their employing institutions. It is the responsibility of each research partner to ensure the efficient protection and proper distribution of any intellectual property arising from the accomplishments of the joint research projects.

## 12 Contact

### **In Switzerland:**

Swiss National Science Foundation

Delphine Marchon

International Cooperation

Wildhainweg 3, P.O. Box

CH-3001 Berne

Phone: +41 31 308 23 19

E-Mail: [delphine.marchon@snf.ch](mailto:delphine.marchon@snf.ch) or [international@snf.ch](mailto:international@snf.ch)

Website: [www.snf.ch](http://www.snf.ch)

### **In Korea:**

Seonghui Seo

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National Research Foundation of Korea

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## **Annex 1: Guidelines for writing the research plan (scientific part of the proposal)**

The research plan must **not exceed 20 pages and 80,000 characters (with spaces)**; this includes title or front page, summary, footnotes, illustrations, formulae, tables (and, if applicable, the table of contents), but not the bibliography. A minimum of **point 10 font size and 1.5 line spacing** must be used.

The SNSF and the NRF do not consider applications that do not meet the formal requirements and/or are manifestly inadequate.

The research plan needs to be structured as follows:

### **1. Summary of the research plan (does count toward the 20 pages)**

The summary should include the most important features of your research plan, and place your project in a broader scientific context.

### **2. Research plan (does count toward the 20 pages)**

#### **2.1 Current state of research in the field**

By citing the most important publications in the relevant field, please set out the scientific background and basis of the project, explain the need to perform research on the topic you propose and briefly describe important research currently being conducted internationally.

#### **2.2 Current state of own research and partnership aspect**

- Please describe briefly the work done by the different applicants in the relevant research field or in related fields and indicate the relevant publications.
- Explain how the different applicants complement each other for the proposed research project.
- Describe past collaborations that involved the Swiss and Korean partners (if applicable).

#### **2.3 Detailed research plan**

Against the background described in sections 2.1 and 2.2, state the aims that you plan to attain during the lifetime of the project. Please consider the following points:

- Which investigations and/or experiments do you plan to carry out/are necessary to attain the stated aims?

- What is the rationale for getting the project started and how do you intend to develop the work later on?
- What is the expected added value (synergistic benefit) of the collaboration?

Information concerning the methods necessary to attain the aims:

- Which are the methods available to you?
- To which other methods do you have access and how?
- Which methods need to be developed?

Data and data collection:

- Which data are available to you and from where?
- Which data need to be collected?

#### **2.4 Work division, schedule and milestones**

- Please indicate how you plan to divide the work among the different partners.
- As far as possible, please give an approximate schedule for the work to be carried out within the project and indicate the most important milestones. In particular, please describe the major tasks of the staff to be employed within the project by the different partners.
- List the planned visits between the Swiss and Korean research groups (visiting scientist, hosting scientist, purpose of visit, date and duration of visit).

#### **2.5 Importance, impact and results**

##### **Scientific importance and impact**

Please describe briefly the importance of your research for the scientific community and the impact you expect from the project on research, training and teaching in your field/discipline. Please indicate how you will publish/communicate your results.

##### **Expected results and dissemination plan**

Describe in detail the project outcomes you envisage. Explain how you will share these findings with stakeholders and the community. Address the potential for knowledge transfer to industry (if applicable).

**Broader impact**

If your application concerns use-inspired research, please indicate whether and to what extent the proposed project will have a broader impact and what this impact will be. The following points should be addressed:

- Need for research as perceived by practitioners/industry: are there any knowledge gaps? Are innovations and improvements expected?
- Transferability of results: to what degree can research results be put into practice?
- Other potential impacts: in which spheres outside science could the implementation of the research results entail changes and what is the nature of these changes?

**3. Bibliography (does not count toward the 20 pages)**

**4. Ethical, safety and regulatory issues (does not count toward the 20 pages)**

Does your proposed work raise ethical, safety or regulatory issues? If yes, how will you deal with them?

Please indicate whether the proposed research includes:

	Switzerland (yes/no)	Korea (yes/no)
Research on humans		
Research on human embryonic stem cells		
Research on animals		
Research on GMO or pathogens		

**5. Requested funds (does not count toward the 20 pages)**

Year	Total budget requested	
	Korea	Switzerland
1yr	90,000,000 (KRW)	(CHF)
2yr		
3yr		
<b>TOTAL</b>		

Swiss applicants additionally need to fill in the detailed budget in *mySNF*, and Korean applicants must do so in IRIS.