

Information for applicants

Weave

(PROFI funding mode – valid for submissions as of 31 May 2023)

Vienna, 14/03/2024

Discovering
what
matters.

Important information:

*Please note that the Weave program on May 31, 2023 switched to PROFI funding mode. Starting on this date, it is no longer possible to finalize applications in the ad personam funding mode. The following guidelines refer to the **PROFI funding mode**.*

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1 What is Weave?

Weave is a bottom-up cross-European funding scheme developed by European research funders to support excellent collaborative research projects.

It aims to simplify the submission, evaluation and funding procedure of collaborative research proposals involving researchers from up to three European countries or regions, through a single evaluation of the proposals.

Weave aims to make it easier for researchers to collaborate across borders, following simplified processes. Researchers will also be able to collaborate with their peers in countries where so far no agreements existed.

Within Weave, researchers from two or three European countries or regions are allowed to submit a collaborative research proposal to any of the participating funders. To submit a proposal, all participating researchers need to be eligible for funding at the involved Weave funding organization.

Weave is based on existing funding programs which are interconnected. Research projects are funded through national or regional research programs that are managed by the respective Weave funding organisation. Funders will only provide funding within their national or regional borders.

2 Lead Agency Principle

Weave is based on the Lead Agency Procedure principle. According to the Lead Agency Procedure researchers from either two or three Weave partner countries jointly write a research proposal which will be reviewed by only one of the involved research funding organizations. The research funding organization that receives the proposal (the so-called Lead Agency) evaluates the proposal according to its internal rules set out for its respective national or regional program. The funding recommendation is then communicated to the other funders involved (so-called Partner Agencies), for approval and budgetary purposes.

The team of applicants determine a coordinating applicant, who submits the joint proposal to the respective Weave funding organization in his/her country. The other applicants (co-applicants) have to submit a copy of the proposal within one week to their respective funding agency (Partner Agency).

2.1 How to choose the Lead Agency

(Co-)Applicants can freely choose the Lead Agency. Either FWF or any of the organizations listed in section 3 can act as Lead Agency. The choice of the Lead Agency is independent of the distribution of the application sums at FWF and in the partner country/ies.

3 Which countries/regions are involved?

Within Weave, FWF currently co-operates with the following research funding organizations:

Belgium / Flanders	FWO – Research Foundation Flanders
Czech Republic	GACR – Czech Science Foundation
Germany	DFG – German Research Foundation
Luxembourg	FNR – National Research Foundation Luxembourg
Poland	NCN – National Science Centre
Slovenia	ARIS – Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency
Switzerland	SNSF – Swiss National Science Foundation

If FWF acts as Lead Agency, applicants in Austria can submit their proposal for a “Joint Project” with partners from either one or two of the countries/regions listed above.

Please note that GACR currently does not allow trilateral proposals including FWO/Belgium.

If another organization than FWF acts as Lead Agency, other rules for trilateral project proposals may apply. For details, please consult the respective Lead Agency.

3.1 Additional co-operation possibilities

Proposals submitted to the following Lead Agencies in addition to the above mentioned organizations can also include co-applicants which are financed by HRZZ and FNRS. The rule that the maximum number of (co-)applicants is three remains unaffected by this additional possibility:

Lead Agency / Country	additional partner agency / country
ARIS / Slovenia	HRZZ – Croatian Science Foundation / Croatia
DFG / Germany	F.R.S. – FNRS – Fund for Scientific Research / Wallonia, Belgium
FNR / Luxembourg	Formas – Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development F.R.S. – FNRS – Fund for Scientific Research / Wallonia, Belgium
FWO / Flanders, Belgium	Formas – Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development

	F.R.S. – FNRS – Fund for Scientific Research / Wallonia, Belgium
GACR / Czech Science Foundation	HRZZ – Croatian Science Foundation / Croatia
SNSF / Switzerland	HRZZ – Croatian Science Foundation / Croatia Formas – Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development F.R.S. – FNRS – Fund for Scientific Research / Wallonia, Belgium

4 Project duration

The maximum duration that applicants can apply for depends on the research funding agency/agencies involved. The maximum duration of the Joint Project is set by the research funding organization which allows the shortest project duration.

Belgium/Flanders (FWO)	Up to 48 months
Czech Republic (GACR)	24 or 36 months
Germany (DFG)	Up to 36 months
Luxembourg (FNR)	If FWF acts as the Lead Agency: up to 48 months If FNR acts as the Lead Agency: up to 36 months
Poland (NCN)	24, 36 or 48 months
Slovenia (ARIS)	If FWF acts as the Lead Agency: up to 48 months If ARIS acts as the Lead Agency: up to 36 months
Switzerland (SNSF)	Up to 48 months

5 Deadlines

The deadline for submitting a proposal **depends on the choice of the Lead Agency**. If not FWF, but **another agency acts as Lead Agency**, the submission at FWF should take place **simultaneously** with the submission at the Lead Agency, however at the latest **within 7 calendar days** after the submission/after the deadline at the Lead Agency.

Proposal including researchers based in...	FWF acts as Lead Agency	Other funding organization acts as Lead Agency
Belgium/Flanders (FWO)	2 April 2024	2 April 2024
Czech Republic (GACR)	<i>Submission possible anytime, no deadline</i>	3 April 2024
Germany (DFG)	<i>Submission possible anytime, no deadline</i>	<i>Submission possible anytime, no deadline</i>
Luxembourg (FNR)	<i>Submission possible anytime, no deadline</i>	17 April 2024
Poland (NCN)	<i>Submission possible anytime, no deadline</i>	<i>Currently no call (next deadline in late 2025)</i>
Slovenia (ARIS)	<i>Submission possible anytime, no deadline</i>	<i>Currently no call (next deadline in 2025)</i>
Switzerland (SNSF)	<i>Submission possible anytime, no deadline</i>	2 annual deadlines: 3 April 2024 1 October 2024

6 Cost calculation

The project parts will be **financed separately** by the respective national/regional funding agency in accordance with their standard rules. For calculating the costs, the guidelines of the **respective national/regional funding organization** apply.

For Austrian project parts the [guidelines for Principle Investigator Projects](#) (“Einzelprojekte”) and for the [program for clinical research](#) (KLIF) apply.

7 How to submit a proposal

The joint proposal must be prepared in accordance with the **formal guidelines of the Lead Agency**. The costs must be calculated in accordance with the guidelines of the funding agency in charge of funding the respective national/regional project part.

7.1 FWF acts as Lead Agency

Joint proposals submitted to FWF as the Lead Agency must be prepared in accordance with the [guidelines for Principle Investigator Projects](#) or, in the case of clinical research, for the FWF [program for Clinical Research](#). The project description must encompass the **entire bi- or trilateral research project**.

In addition to the elements stipulated in the guidelines, the **project description** must include additional information on:

- The **distribution of work** between the partners
- The **added value** of the international co-operation

The 20-page limit applies.

With regard to the **Annexes**, the following rules apply:

- **Annex 2** (“Financial aspects”) must include information on the Austrian **and** all other international project parts.
- **Annex 3**: The **CV/publication list** of the **applicants in Austria and in the partner country/countries** must be included. In addition, **up to three** CVs/publication lists can be included.

The proposal must be submitted via the FWF **Elane system** (<https://elane.fwf.ac.at>), using the program category “**PIN – International Programs**” (call “**Weave: FWF = Lead Agency**”).

7.1.1.1 Clinical research

For proposals in the area of clinical research, the guidelines of the FWF [Program for Clinical Research](#) (KLIF) apply. The Austrian applicant must submit a positive opinion from the relevant ethics commission or evidence of a fundamental approval/endorsement by that commission. The document must be sent to FWF at the latest four months after the submission of the proposal. The international partners must follow the rules of their respective funding agency.

7.1.2 Requirements at international partner funding organization

The international co-applicant(s) must submit the **administrative and financial data** to the Weave research funding organization in charge of funding their respective project part. **A copy of the proposal** that is submitted to FWF must be submitted to the partner funding organization. For details, international (co-)applicants must consult the websites of the respective funding agency at which they apply.

The submission at the partner funding organization should take place **simultaneously** with the submission at FWF, however at the latest **within seven calendar days** after the submission at FWF.

Information on proposals involving NCN/Poland:

NCN requests the applicants to provide the financial information for the Polish project part in the proposals submitted to FWF (in Annex 2) to be stated **both in EUR and in PLN**, thereby using an **exchange rate published on the [NCN website](#)**. Please note that the exchange rate will be **updated on 1 January 2022**. The financial information included in the FWF proposal and the information submitted to the NCN OSF system **must be consistent**. Differences between the financial information provided to FWF and NCN will lead to a **rejection of the proposal for formal reasons**.

Please note that NCN does **not allow Polish team members to be named** in the joint proposal submitted to FWF, with the exception of the NCN applicant and co-investigators. For details, consult the NCN [call information on Weave-UNISONO](#).

7.2 Other funding organization acts as Lead Agency

Applications for which one of the FWF’s Weave partner organizations (cf. section 3) acts as Lead Agency must be prepared **in accordance with the formal guidelines of the Lead Agency**. In addition, the application submitted to the Lead Agency must include information on:

- the **distribution of work** between the partners
- a **budget justification** for each national project part

For details, please consult the information provided by the respective funding agency:

Lead Agency	Website
ARIS (Slovenia)	http://www.arrs.si/en/medn/vodilna/index.asp
DFG (Germany)	http://www.dfg.de/lead_agency_weave/en
FNR (Luxembourg)	https://www.fnr.lu/international-cooperation/weave/
FWO (Flanders/Belgium)	https://www.fwo.be/weave
GACR (Czech Republic)	https://gacr.cz/vyzva-pro-podavani-projektu-na-principu-hodnoceni-lead-agency-3/
NCN (Poland)	https://ncn.gov.pl/wspolpraca-zagraniczna/wspolpraca-wielostronna/weave?language=en
SNSF (Switzerland)	http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/projects/weave-lead-agency/weave/Pages/default.aspx

7.2.1 Requirements at FWF

If one of the organizations listed in 7.2. acts as the Lead Agency, applicants at FWF must submit a copy of the proposal, together with the documents listed below, to FWF. The submission at FWF should take place **simultaneously** with the submission at the Lead Agency. At the latest, the submission at FWF must take place **no later than 7 days** after the submission at the Lead Agency/after the deadline at the Lead Agency (cf. **section 5 “Deadlines”**).

Documents that must be submitted at FWF:

- **Copy of the proposal** submitted to the Lead Agency
- **Budget justification** for the project part to be financed by FWF (according to **Appendix A** of the [application guidelines for Principle Investigator Projects](#)).
- **CV** of the FWF principal investigator (according to [FWF guidelines](#))

- **Proof of publication output of the FWF principal investigator** (according to [FWF guidelines](#), section 2.2.4 “Publication output”)

The data must be submitted to FWF via the **Elane system** (<https://elane.fwf.ac.at>), using the “**PIN – International programs**” program category (Call: “**Weave – external Lead Agency**”)

The **FWF funded project part and applicants at FWF** must meet the **eligibility criteria** as defined in the [application guidelines for FWF Principle Investigator Projects](#) or the [FWF Program for Clinical Research](#) (KLIF), respectively. For details, cf. **section 1 “Program objective”** of the application guidelines.

Please note that the **FWF applicant/principal investigator** who is stated in the application submitted to the Lead Agency must be **identical** with the person who acts as the applicant at FWF.

7.2.1.1 Clinical Research (KLIF)

For proposals in the field of clinical research, the guidelines for the FWF [program for clinical research](#) (KLIF) apply with regard to the eligibility criteria and the guidelines for cost calculation. The applicant in Austria must submit a positive opinion from the relevant ethics commission or evidence of a fundamental approval/endorsement by that commission until four months after the submission of the proposal at the latest. Also, the form “Declaration on the opinion of the ethics commission” must be submitted by that time.

7.3 Information on Resubmissions (“Neuplanung”)

Irrespective of whether FWF or another funding organization acts as the Lead Agency, the **FWF rules for resubmissions** apply (cf. **section 2.8** “Revising a rejected application (“resubmission”) in the [application guidelines](#)). Please note that **proposals must be revised** in order to be eligible for resubmission at FWF. Identical proposals may not be resubmitted.

If the **proposal was previously reviewed by FWF**, an accompanying letter containing an **overview of all changes** made in the resubmitted proposal must be submitted to the FWF. In addition, **response(s) to the reviews** obtained by FWF must be included (cf. section 2.8.).

If the proposal was **previously reviewed** not by FWF, but **by another Weave funding organization**, **only the overview of all changes** made in the resubmitted proposal must be submitted to FWF.

8 Review process and funding threshold

The proposals will be peer reviewed by the Lead Agency only. The Lead Agency will make a funding recommendation to the other involved research funding organization(s). The Lead Agency will make use of the standard review procedures used in the respective funding

program to which the proposals are submitted. If FWF acts as the Lead Agency, the minimum number of reviews will be calculated on the basis of **the larger / largest** funding sums requested at FWF and at the involved partner organization(s) respectively (cf. section 3 in the application guidelines). The application sums will not be added up for this purpose.

In order to be recommended for funding, a proposal must be ranked among the top 20 % in the respective funding program (funding threshold).

9 Contacts

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