

## **CEUS – Central European Science Partnership**

*Austria – Czech Republic – Poland – Slovenia*

### **Call for Proposals - Preannouncement**

***Please note that proposals in response to this call can only be submitted as of 22 February 2020. Until then, bilateral proposals can be submitted to the existing calls between FWF and ARRS as well as between FWF and NCN (“Mozart”).***

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## 1. Introduction

The **Austrian Science Fund** (FWF), together with the **Czech Science Foundation** (Grantová agentura České republiky, GA ČR), the **National Science Centre** of Poland (NCN, Narodowe Centrum Nauki) and the **Slovenian Research Agency** (ARRS, Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost Republike Slovenije) has established the **Central European Science Partnership** (CEUS) in order to intensify the scientific links between researchers from Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia. Together, the four research funding organisations offer the possibility to apply for **Joint Research Projects** between researchers from two or three of the partner countries. Joint Research Projects must combine the complementary expertise of the project partners. The project parts should be closely integrated combining substantial scientific input from all partners.

### 1.1. Thematic scope

The call is open to **all areas of scientific research**, including the Humanities and clinical research.

### 1.2. Number of partners

Joint Projects submitted in response to this call can include partners from either **two or three** of the partner countries. Proposals involving partners from all four countries are not eligible.

### 1.3. Project duration

Proposals for bi- or trilateral Joint Projects between Partners from **Austria, Poland and Slovenia** can have a maximum duration of **four years**.

Bi- or trilateral projects involving partners from the **Czech Republic** can have a maximum duration of **three years**.

The applied project duration must be **identical on all sides**.

## 2. Lead Agency Procedure

Proposals submitted to this call will be administered in accordance with the principles of the Lead Agency Procedure. This means that the joint proposal will be evaluated by only one of the involved research funding organisations. Proposals for joint projects will be processed by the Lead Agency according to its standard evaluation and decision making procedures. The Lead Agency will make a funding recommendation which is the basis of the decision by the

partner funding agency/agencies. The individual projects parts will be funded separately by the respective national research funding organisation.

## 2.1. How to define the Lead Agency

In order to establish which research funding organization acts as the Lead Agency, the distribution of application sum is decisive. The following thresholds apply:

- **Bilateral projects: at least 40 %** of the entire project costs must be applied for at the Lead Agency.
- **Trilateral projects: at least 25 %** of the entire project costs must be applied for at the Lead Agency.

Please note that the **comparative CEUS cost sheet** must be submitted to the Lead Agency (in addition to the respective national cost-breakdowns).

## 2.2. Cost calculation

The two or three project parts will be funded separately, by FWF, ARRS, GA ČR or NCN, in accordance with the respective national guidelines. The following guidelines apply:

<b>Austrian project part</b>	FWF <a href="#">guidelines for stand-alone projects</a> (“Einzelprojekte”) or, in the case of clinical research, guidelines for the <a href="#">programme for Clinical Research</a> (KLIF)
<b>Czech project part</b>	guidelines for GA ČR “Lead Agency Grants”
<b>Polish project part</b>	If NCN acts as Lead Agency: guidelines for the <a href="#">NCN OPUS programme</a>  If ARRS, FWF or GAČR acts as Lead Agency: CEUS-Unisono
<b>Slovenian project part</b>	guidelines for <a href="#">ARRS “national research projects”</a>

### 2.3. Deadline

The deadline depends on the Lead Agency.

FWF acts as Lead Agency	Proposal submission anytime, no deadline
ARRS acts as Lead Agency	Deadline of “national research projects”
GACR acts as Lead Agency	Deadline of “LA Grants” scheme
NCN acts as Lead Agency	Deadline of “OPUS” scheme, September edition

## 3. How to submit a proposal

### 3.1. FWF acts as Lead Agency

#### 3.1.1. Formal requirements at FWF

Joint proposals submitted to FWF as the Lead Agency must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines for stand-alone projects or, in the case of clinical research, for the FWF programme 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.

**Annex 1** (“Financial aspects”) must include information on the **Austrian and all other international project parts**.

In addition to the respective national cost sheets the **comparative CEUS cost sheet** must be included.

### 3.1.1.1. *Clinical research*

For proposals in the area of clinical research, the [guidelines of the FWF programme 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 together with the other submission documents. The partners from the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia must follow the rules of GA ČR, NCN and ARRS respectively.

### 3.1.2. **Formal Requirements at ARRS**

For **Slovenian applicants** the [ARRS eligibility criteria and funding limits](#) apply. **Slovenian applicants** must send the signed and stamped **Application Form ARRS-RPROJ-LA-2019** (available on <http://www.arrs.gov.si/sl/gradivo/>) **directly to ARRS** in an envelope marked “NE ODPIRAJ – Prijava na vodilno agencijo FWF”, and the electronic form to the e-mail address [LA.FWF@arrs.si](mailto:LA.FWF@arrs.si).

### 3.1.3. **Formal Requirements at GACR**

Czech Applicants need to follow the **GACR eligibility rules** and **guidelines for calculating costs**. On-line project proposal must be submitted through GRIS system only ([www.gris.cz](http://www.gris.cz)) and applicants must send a copy of the proposal **directly to GACR** (e-mail: [la.fwf@gacr.cz](mailto:la.fwf@gacr.cz)) by the call deadline.

### 3.1.4. **Formal Requirements at NCN**

Polish Applicants need to follow the **NCN eligibility rules** and **guidelines for calculating costs**.

Polish applicants must submit a complete proposal, drafted in accordance with the data required as set out in the NCN call documentation, via the electronic submission system ZSUN/OSF (Zintegrowany System Usług dla Nauki/Obługa Strumieni Finansowania) available at [www.osf.opi.org.pl](http://www.osf.opi.org.pl), together with a joint proposal **identical with the version submitted to FWF**.

Data included in the ZSUN/OSF system should be consistent with information included in the joint proposal.

Please note that **no personal data** should be included for post-docs at the Polish side since they should be selected in an open competition; including their data in the application will result in the rejection of the proposal at the eligibility check stage at NCN.

**Expenses** of the Polish project part **stated in EUR** Annex 1 and the comparative CEUS cost sheet using the exchange rate that will be published in the NCN call documentation must equal to the budget provided in PLN in the breakdown of project's costs in the ZSUN/OSF. Severe discrepancies between the cost statements in EUR in Annex 1 and in the comparative CEUS cost sheet and the budget in PLN stated in ZSUN/OSF may lead to the rejection of the joint proposal.

Please note that no modifications in joint proposals that could influence the budget at the Polish side, the research tasks and other information included in the OSF application are possible after submission.

### 3.2. ARRS, GA ČR or NCN acts as Lead Agency

Proposals for which ARRS, GA ČR or NCN act as Lead Agency must be submitted to the respective national call of the Lead Agency:

ARRS acts as Lead Agency	call for ARRS " <a href="#">National call for Research Projects</a> "
GA ČR acts as Lead Agency	call for GA ČR " <a href="#">LA Grants</a> "
NCN acts as Lead Agency	call for the <a href="#">NCN OPUS programme</a>

The proposal submitted to the Lead Agency must follow the formal guidelines of the respective call. In addition, the proposal must include information on:

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

In addition, the **comparative CEUS cost sheet** must be submitted to the Lead Agency.

#### 3.2.1. Requirements for Austrian applicants

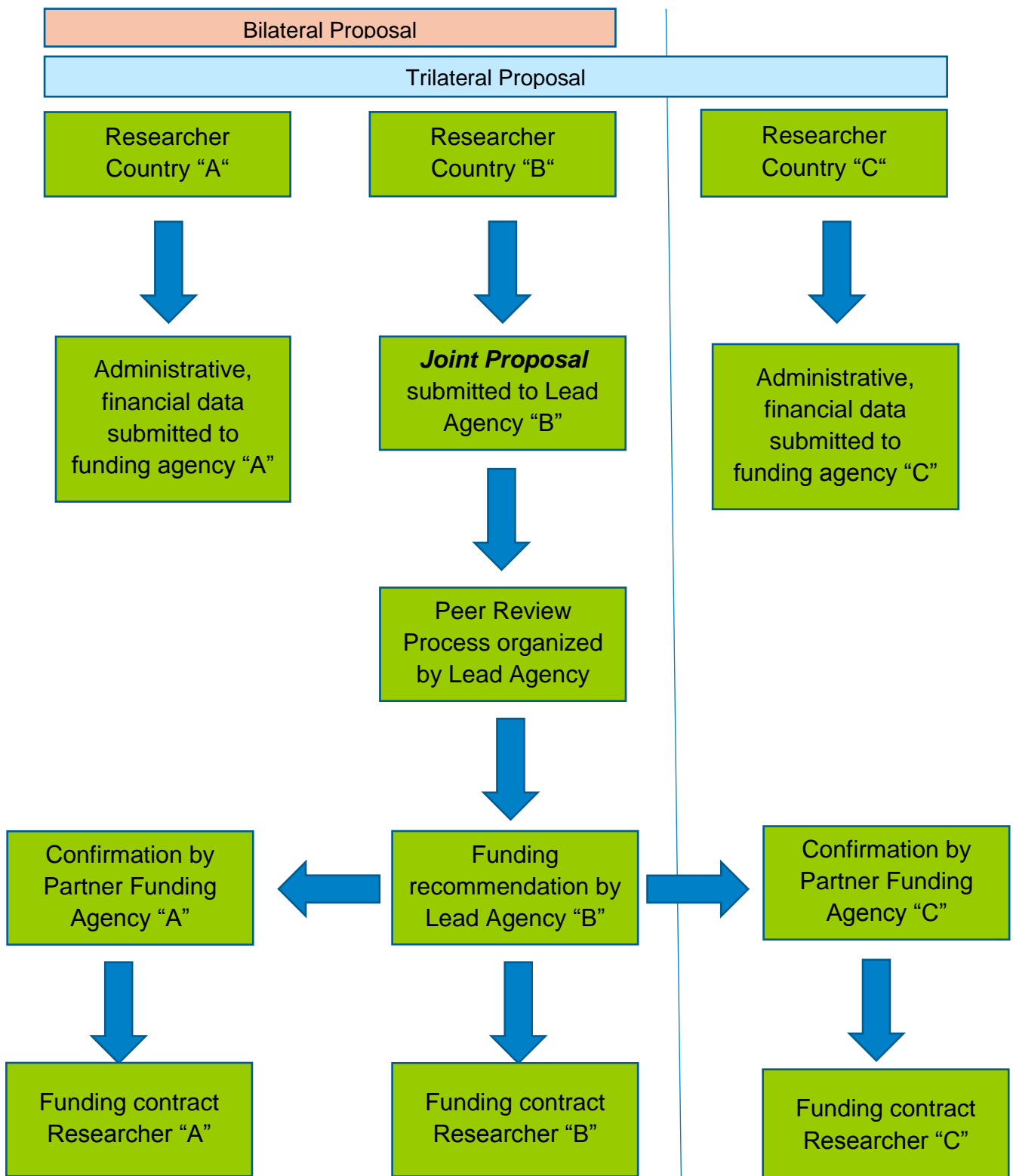
Austrian applicants must meet the **eligibility criteria** set forth in the [application guidelines for FWF stand-alone projects](#) or the FWF [programme for clinical research](#) (KLIF), respectively. Applicants in Austria must submit the **administrative and financial data** for the Austrian project part as well as a **scientific abstract** (according to FWF guidelines) directly to FWF.

The data must be submitted to FWF via the **Elane** system (<https://elane.fwf.ac.at>), using the **programme category “I – International programmes”**.

### **3.2.2. Requirements for applicants from the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia**

Applicants must submit their respective administrative and financial data to their respective national funding agency. GA ČR and NCN also require a copy of the proposal submitted to the Lead Agency. For details cf. sections 3.1.2., 3.1.3. and 3.1.4. above.

#### 4. Graphic Summary (bilateral / trilateral consortium)





## 5. Contacts

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NCN – Polish Science Centre	Wawrzyniec Banach +48 12 341 9094 <a href="mailto:Wawrzyniec.Banach@ncn.gov.pl">Wawrzyniec.Banach@ncn.gov.pl</a>  Dr Magdalena Godowska +48 12 341 9016 <a href="mailto:Magdalena.godowska@ncn.gov.pl">Magdalena.godowska@ncn.gov.pl</a>