

Information for applicants

# Weave

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

Vienna, 13/09/2023

**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**.*

## Content

<b>1</b>	<b>What is Weave?</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Lead Agency Principle</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1	How to choose the Lead Agency .....	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Which countries/regions are involved?</b> .....	<b>4</b>
3.1	Additional co-operation possibilities .....	4
<b>4</b>	<b>Project duration</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Deadlines</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Cost calculation</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>How to submit a proposal</b> .....	<b>7</b>
7.1	FWF acts as Lead Agency .....	7
7.1.2	Requirements at international partner funding organization .....	8
7.2	Other funding organisation acts as Lead Agency .....	9
7.2.1	Requirements at FWF .....	9
7.3	Information on Resubmissions (“Neuplanung”) .....	10
<b>8</b>	<b>Review process and funding threshold</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Contacts</b> .....	<b>12</b>

## 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 organisation.

Weave is based on existing funding programmes which are interconnected. Research projects are funded through national or regional research programmes 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 organisations. The research funding organisation 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 programme. 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 organisation 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 organisations 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 organisations:

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 organisations 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
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

SNSF / Switzerland	HRZZ – Croatian Science Foundation / Croatia  Formas – Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development  F.R.S. – FNRS – Fund for Scientific Research / Wallonia, Belgium
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## 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**. If not FWF, but **another agency acts as Lead Agency**, the submission at FWF must take place **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)	<i>Currently no call (next deadline in 2024)</i>	<i>Currently no call (next deadline in 2024)</i>
Czech Republic (GACR)	<i>Submission possible anytime, no deadline</i>	<i>Currently no call (next deadline in 2024)</i>

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>	<i>Currently no call (next deadline in 2024)</i>
Poland (NCN)	<i>Submission possible anytime, no deadline</i>	<b>15 December 2023</b>
Slovenia (ARIS)	<i>Submission possible anytime, no deadline</i>	<i>Currently no call (next deadline in 2024)</i>
Switzerland (SNSF)	<i>Submission possible anytime, no deadline</i>	<i>2 annual deadlines: <b>3 April 2023</b> <b>2 October 2023</b></i>

## 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 [programme 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 [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.

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 programme category “**PIN – International Programmes**” (call “**Weave: FWF = Lead Agency**”).

#### 7.1.1.1 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 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 must take place **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 organisation acts as Lead Agency

Applications for which one of the FWF’s Weave partner organisations (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)	<a href="http://www.arrs.si/en/medn/vodilna/index.asp">http://www.arrs.si/en/medn/vodilna/index.asp</a>
DFG (Germany)	<a href="http://www.dfg.de/lead_agency_weave/en">http://www.dfg.de/lead_agency_weave/en</a>
FNR (Luxembourg)	<a href="https://www.fnr.lu/international-cooperation/weave/">https://www.fnr.lu/international-cooperation/weave/</a>
FWO (Flanders/Belgium)	<a href="https://www.fwo.be/weave">https://www.fwo.be/weave</a>
GACR (Czech Republic)	<a href="https://gacr.cz/vyzva-pro-podavani-projektu-na-principu-hodnoceni-lead-agency-3/">https://gacr.cz/vyzva-pro-podavani-projektu-na-principu-hodnoceni-lead-agency-3/</a>
NCN (Poland)	<a href="https://ncn.gov.pl/wspolpraca-zagraniczna/wspolpraca-wielostronna/weave?language=en">https://ncn.gov.pl/wspolpraca-zagraniczna/wspolpraca-wielostronna/weave?language=en</a>
SNSF (Switzerland)	<a href="http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/projects/weave-lead-agency/weave/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.snf.ch/en/funding/projects/weave-lead-agency/weave/Pages/default.aspx</a>

### 7.2.1 Requirements at FWF

If one of the organizations listed in 7.2. acts as the Lead Agency, applicants at FWF **within seven days (for details cf. section 5)** after the submission at the Lead Agency must submit the **administrative and financial data** for the Austrian project part as well as the following documents to FWF:

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

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

## 9 Contacts

### **FWF – Austrian Science Fund**

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### **DFG – German Research Foundation**

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### **NCN – National Science Center**

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### **SNSF – Swiss National Science Foundation**

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