



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TOOL KIT



CNRS IN FIGURES

- **31,000** employees: **11,600** researchers, **14,400** engineers and technical staff and **5,000** non permanent employees
- **1,200** research units - **85%** are joint research laboratories with universities and industry
- Budget **€ 2.834** billion of which **€ 513** million come from revenues generated by CNRS contracts
- **25,000** publications per year of which about **50%** are co-authored with foreign scientists
- **80** exchange agreements with **55** countries
- **332** International Programs for Scientific Cooperation
- **54** International Associated Laboratories
- **56** International Research Networks
- **10** International Research Joint Units
- **8** CNRS Offices abroad (Beijing, Brussels, Hanoi, Johannesburg, Moscow, Santiago de Chile, Tokyo, Washington)
- **4,000** contracts signed with industry
- **40** current agreements with major international industrial groups
- **7,450** active patents
- **€ 53,3** million in royalties
- **246** companies created from 1999 to 2005



The **international dimension** of research is a daily reality at CNRS. International collaboration between researchers is initially a matter of personal affinity and research interests, based on personal relationships or contacts developed at international conferences, summer schools and seminars.

These collaborative activities between researchers or laboratories are carried out within networks of scientific exchange. In some cases, however, relationships with foreign partners benefit from being consolidated and formalized.

In order to optimize and structure these exchanges, CNRS' international scientific strategy aims to enable CNRS research units to work with leading laboratories around the world.

This document presents the cooperative tools made available by CNRS and the procedure to set them in use. It is designed to help CNRS researchers and their foreign partners find the tool best suited to the type of collaboration they would like to develop - whether it is initiating a research project through exchanges, consolidating it through an international program for scientific cooperation, coordinating it through a network, or structuring it through an associated laboratory or an international joint unit. The tools presented here are intended as a base for discussions about how to implement collaboration between partners.

CNRS is the largest publicly funded research organization in Europe. Its annual budget represents a quarter of France's civilian research budget. Its laboratories, both its own and those managed jointly with universities, other research organizations and industry, are located throughout France and occasionally overseas.

Measured by the amount of human and material resources it commits to scientific research, the range of scientific fields covered and the types of collaboration possible, CNRS plays an essential role in French research and serves as a breeding ground for scientific and technological innovation.

RESEARCHER EXCHANGES

..... **T**o assist researchers in initiating scientific collaboration with a foreign partner, CNRS funds research trips and short-term stays. The goal is for researchers from different research organizations or universities to work together on a jointly defined project. The exchanges take place within the framework of general cooperation agreements that have been signed by CNRS and foreign research organizations.

How long does the project last?

A project is initially for one year, and is renewable. During this period, researchers are able to visit each other during short-term stays, which on average last between 1 and 4 weeks.

Who can apply?

- In France, CNRS researchers, as well as teaching and research staff from other institutions who

work in CNRS-affiliated research units.

- Outside France, researchers working at research organizations or universities.

How and when to apply

A call for proposals is published annually. Researchers who wish to work with a foreign partner must first ascertain that their partner works for an organization with which CNRS has signed a general cooperation agreement. Deadlines for submitting proposals vary according to the country, and are given in the calendar on the website for CNRS' Office of European and International Relations (Direction des relations européennes et internationales). The call for proposals and the application form are available online.

How are proposals evaluated?

Project proposals are evaluated separately by CNRS and the partner institution. At CNRS, evaluation is by peer review and is coordinated by the research departments before CNRS and the partner institution make the final selection jointly. Decisions are sent by mail.

An annual activity report is required.

How are exchanges funded?

Funding comes from both CNRS and the partner institution. According to the type of cooperation agreement signed ahead of time between the partners, either each organization pays for its researchers' travel expenses and the visiting researchers' accommodation expenses, or else each organization covers all expenses for its own researchers.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION (PICS)

..... **I**n situations where cooperation with a foreign partner is well-established, and has resulted in joint publications in scientific journals, it is possible to formalize the relationship through a PICS. This is a more involved form of cooperation than a researcher exchange in that it is based on pre-existing joint research, and has a longer time frame. It brings together two researchers.

What is a PICS?

A PICS is a joint research project carried out by two researchers, one from CNRS and one from abroad. Funding for exchanges and other expenses required by the cooperation comes from both partners.

How long does a PICS last?

- *Three years, non renewable.*

Who can submit a proposal?

- In France, CNRS researchers, as well as teaching and research staff from other institutions who work in CNRS-affiliated research units.
- Outside France, researchers working at research organizations or universities.

How and when to apply

A call for proposals is published annually on the website of the Office of European and International Relations (DREI). The two-stage application process has deadlines on March 31 and May 31, and funding begins at the start of the following year. Before submitting a proposal, CNRS researchers must seek approval from their research department. Once they have obtained it, they can request an applica-

tion form from the DREI. The foreign partner must simultaneously submit a proposal to his or her home institution.

A consolidated provisional budget (including salaries and portion of laboratory budget provided by the research organization, as well as other resources allotted to the project) is to be presented with the research project proposal. The PICS partners sign a confidentiality agreement once a project is approved.

How are applications evaluated?

Proposals are evaluated by peer review, at both CNRS and the partner institution. At CNRS, evaluation is overseen by the research departments. Decisions are made jointly by CNRS and the partner institution, and are announced by mail. Scientific and financial reports must be submitted annually.

How are PICS funded?

Both institutions participate in PICS funding. Funding covers the additional expenditure due to the international nature of the project, such as research trips, meetings, operating expenses and small equipment. Funding begins at the start of the year following the decision to carry out a PICS.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATED LABORATORIES (LEA) INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATED LABORATORIES (LIA)

..... **T**o structure collaboration between two research teams (or two laboratories), one in France and the other abroad, which already have joint publications, you can request the creation of a European Associated Laboratory (for European partners) or an International Associated Laboratory (for non-European partners). The relationship between the two partners is formalized through a contract signed by the heads of both organizations, with clauses dealing with issues such as intellectual property rights.

What is an LEA/LIA ?

An LEA/LIA is a "laboratory without walls" that brings together one CNRS and one foreign team or laboratory to work on a jointly defined project. Human and material resources are pooled to carry out the project. Teams or laboratories associated through an LEA or LIA maintain their separate autonomy, status, director and location. The LEA or LIA is jointly managed, with alternating or simultaneous co-principal investigators, and has a scientific evaluation committee.

How long does an LEA/LIA last?

- *Four years, renewable once.*

Who can submit an LEA/LIA proposal?

- In France, CNRS researchers or professors who work in CNRS-affiliated research units, and who are likely to be a co-principal investigator for the LEA/LIA.
- Outside France, researchers from teams or laboratories which belong to a research orga-

nization or university and who are likely to be a co-principal investigator for LEA/LIA.

How and when to submit a proposal

Proposals can be submitted simultaneously at any time to the relevant CNRS research department and to the foreign institution.

How are proposals evaluated?

Scientific evaluation of proposals is carried out simultaneously by peer review, at both CNRS and the partner institution. At CNRS, evaluation is overseen by the research departments.

Decisions are announced by mail.

Once the creation of an LEA/LIA has been approved, a contract, which includes a research project description, consolidated provisional budget, and intellectual property clauses, is signed by the Director General of CNRS and by the head of the partner institution.

A scientific and financial report must be submitted annually.

How is an LEA/LIA funded?

CNRS and the partner institution earmark funding for LEA/LIA projects, in addition to other resources provided by the home institutions for research on the project. Equipment, operating costs, research trips, visiting researcher positions... are covered. Funding begins at the start of the year following the decision to create an LEA/LIA.

EUROPEAN RESEARCH NETWORKS (GDRE) INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORKS (GDRI)

..... **I**n order to create a flexible partnership bringing together several French and foreign laboratories in the private or public sector to work on a specific research topic, you can request the creation of a European or International Research Network. One of the key features of this type of structure is that it involves a number of international partners, thus creating a rich forum for scientific exchange on a defined theme.

What is a GDRE/GDRI?

A GDRE/GDRI is a network of laboratories in several European (for GDREs) or European and non-European (for GDRI) countries. Its goal is to bring together a range of academic and industrial partners. These networks have a scientific management committee.

How long does a GDRE/GDRI last?

- *Four years, renewable once.*

Who can submit a GDRE/GDRI proposal?

- In France, CNRS researchers, as well as teaching and research staff from other research organizations working in CNRS-affiliated joint units.
- Outside France, researchers working at a private or public research organization or university.

How and when to submit a proposal

Proposals can be submitted simultaneously at any time to the relevant CNRS research department and to the partner institutions.

How are proposals evaluated?

Scientific evaluation of proposals is carried out simultaneously by peer review at CNRS and the partner institutions. The selection of GDRE/GDRIs is competitive and based on common agreement between the partners. At CNRS, evaluation is overseen by the research departments.

Decisions are announced by mail.

Once the GDRE/GDRI has been approved, a contract, with a research project description, consolidated provisional budget, and intellectual property clauses, is signed by the Director General of CNRS and the heads of the French and foreign partner institutions. Funding begins at the start of the year following the signing of the contract.

A scientific and financial report must be submitted annually.

How is a GDRE/GDRI funded?

The network is funded by all partners, and the pooled resources are used for exchanges between the partners and to organize seminars and workshops. Funding begins at the start of the year following the decision to create a GDRE/GDRI.

INTERNATIONAL JOINT UNITS (UMI)

..... **I**f collaboration with a partner institution is already well-structured and the teams would like to work together full-time in the same laboratory, located either in France or abroad, you can request the creation of an International Joint Unit.

What is a UMI?

A UMI is a full-fledged laboratory, as found in universities and research organizations. It is in a single location, in France or abroad, and brings together researchers, students, postdocs, and technicians from CNRS and the partner institution. The director of the UMI is jointly named by CNRS and the foreign partner institution.

How long does a UMI last?

- *Four years, renewable twice*

Who can submit a UMI proposal?

The request to create a UMI is submitted by its future director (a researcher or professor) to both CNRS and the foreign institution.

How and when to submit a proposal

The request to create a UMI can be made at any time to the research departments of CNRS and to the partner institution. The file includes a research proposal and a provisional budget with total cost for 4 years.

How are UMI proposals evaluated?

Scientific evaluation of proposals is carried out simultaneously by peer review at CNRS and the partner institution. In France, the National Committee for Scientific Research is also asked to provide an evaluation.

As UMIs have the same status as real laboratories, decisions concerning their creation are made in the same way as for other CNRS laboratories. The decision must then be ratified by the Director General of CNRS. Once the decision to create a UMI has been made, a contract, with research project description, consolidated provisional budget, and management rules and intellectual property clauses, is signed by the Director General of CNRS and the head of the foreign partner institution.

How is the UMI funded?

Human and material resources are provided to the UMI by CNRS and the partner institution, in addition to funding from other sources, such as organizations, foundations, and private companies.

The salaries of researchers, Ph.D. students, and postdocs are covered, as are equipment, operating expenses, research trips, visiting researcher positions and infrastructure expenses.

These expenses are jointly covered by the partners according to an annual provisional budget, following discussions by the administrative and scientific authorities of both countries.