

**Memorandum of Understanding
between
Agence Nationale de la Recherche
and
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
on
Joint Calls for Joint Research Projects**

Established between the following partners:

- Agence Nationale de la Recherche (hereinafter referred to as “ANR”), located at 212 rue de Bercy 75012 Paris, France
- Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (hereinafter referred to as “FCT”), located at Av. D. Carlos I, 126, 1249-074 Lisboa, Portugal

referred to hereinafter jointly as “the Parties” and singularly as “Party”.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to foster the French-Portuguese collaboration in scientific research and to fund joint research projects conducted by teams from both countries.

This Memorandum of Understanding sets out the principles and procedures to be adopted by the Parties in the following Activity:

- Opening calls for proposals;
- Receiving joint proposals;
- Setting up peer review and selection procedures;
- Providing funding for the proposals selected for funding;
- Organising common workshops related to this common call or to common projects; and
- Amendment, extension, and termination of this Memorandum of Understanding.

I. General description and context

1. ANR and FCT shall establish a scheme for joint funding of French-Portuguese collaborative research projects between the Parties in relation to the Activity.
2. The aim of the funding cooperation is to strengthen the collaboration between French and Portuguese research communities in areas of mutual interest to be jointly identified in order to achieve world-class scientific and technical results, leading towards new and innovative technologies. Both parties welcome, encourage and support joint research which involves research teams from France and Portugal.
3. Priority will be given to the following research areas:
 - Biology and health
 - Ecosystems and environment
 - Social sciences and humanities

In the 2011 call priority will be given to:

- Biology and health
- Ecosystems and environment

II. Joint Funding Scheme

1. The details of the Joint Funding Scheme shall follow the general guidelines set out at **Annex 1** below.
2. Each Party will fund its own national teams.

III. Miscellaneous

1. Each party covers its own administration costs regarding its contribution to the call, unless otherwise jointly decided.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to the availability of funds in Parties' respective budgets.
3. In participating in this Memorandum of Understanding, each Party shall abide by the applicable laws and regulations of their respective country.
4. This Memorandum of Understanding is drawn up in English and all documents, notices and meetings pertaining to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be in English.
5. This Memorandum of Understanding may only be amended and/or supplemented by a document signed by both Parties and identified as an Addendum to this Memorandum of Understanding.

6. The Parties shall maintain the highest ethical and legal standards in funding research under this Memorandum of Understanding.

IV. Term of this Memorandum of Understanding

1. For each Party, the Memorandum of Understanding will come into force on the date of signature by the Party's authorized representative and shall remain in force for a period of three years and until the end of the funded projects.
2. The Memorandum of Understanding may be amended or modified by written agreement of all signatories or their substitutes.
3. This Memorandum of Understanding is a mutual statement of intent among Parties, who agree to make every reasonable effort to fulfil the intentions expressed herein.

_____ day of _____ 2011

On behalf of Agence Nationale de la
Recherche, France

General Director
Jacqueline Lecourtier

_____ day of _____ 2011

On behalf of Fundação para a Ciência e a
Tecnologia

President
João Sentieiro

Schedule 1 – Details on the Joint Funding Scheme

I. Application

1. The French researchers apply for funding in accordance with ANR rules and the Portuguese researchers in accordance with FCT rules, both using their own application forms. In addition, the French and Portuguese applicants shall write a joint proposal that shall be submitted by the partner applicants to ANR and FCT in parallel. The joint proposal shall be written in English. Proposals submitted to only one Party will not be eligible.
2. ANR will not launch a specific call for proposals dedicated to French/Portuguese projects but will encourage the submission of French/Portuguese proposals within its national call for proposals “Programme Blanc”, and will precise the frame, submission modalities, eligibility rules and evaluation process of such projects.
3. FCT will not launch a specific call for proposals to Portuguese/French projects but will encourage the submission of Portuguese/French proposals within its national call for Proposals for “Scientific Research and Technological Development in all Scientific Domains”.
4. All applicants must fulfil national eligibility rules for their research grant application.
5. After the closure date of the ANR call, ANR will send a copy to FCT of the applications received at ANR. After the closure date of the FCT call, FCT will send to ANR a copy of the applications received at FCT.
6. The co-applicants will designate one national principal investigator for every proposal.
7. **Each application shall include at least the following appendices (in English):**
 - b. **Joint abstract** (no more than one page in length)
 - c. **Joint research plan** (no more than fifteen pages), which shall include:
 - A description of the added value to be expected from the collaboration;
 - A clear description of the planned research collaboration (distribution of work and methods of implementation);
 - Responsibilities of both partners;
 - Joint budget of the joint research project including separate budgets for both partners. A budget may include costs for salaries, researcher mobility, joint meetings, equipment and consumables, etc. Justification of costs shall be stated in the research plan as well as funding requested by each applicant;
 - A description:
 - of the expected outcome of the proposed project, scientifically as well as in terms of its relevance for the industry and society;

- of the project's significance to researcher training and to the development of the research environment;
 - on the ongoing activities and specific advantages of the Portuguese and French groups respectively, which form the basis for the proposed joint project; and
 - on how the project is expected to help strengthen research cooperation between France and Portugal over the long term.
- A discussion on how the proposed joint project compares with other comparable activities worldwide; and
 - A discussion on how the intellectual property and know how arising from the accomplishment of the joint research projects will be handled.
- c. **Curricula vitae** of the principal investigators of both partners (basic information of education, past and present position, and membership of relevant organisations/associations. Each description should not be more than one page); and
- d. **A list of** five best papers and other publications of the principal investigators of both partners.

II. Evaluation of project proposals

1. ANR and FCT will implement evaluation of the proposals according to their own evaluation rules, and will rank the proposals based on scientific quality and interest.
2. The evaluation criteria will be based on the following:
 - a. Relevance of the proposal to the call;
 - b. Technical and scientific quality of the proposal;
 - c. Quality of the project management and methodology;
 - d. Global impact of the proposal;
 - e. Quality of the consortium and good synergies between the partners
 - f. Mobilisation of resources
 - g. Added value to be expected from the French-Portuguese research collaboration;
 - h. Balanced scientific and financial contributions
3. Based on the scientific evaluation, national ranking, and consensus reached through discussions, the Parties will agree on the joint projects to be funded.

III. Funding

1. Based on the scientific evaluations of the joint research proposals and consensus discussion between the Parties (ranking of the projects), ANR will fund French scientists and FCT will fund Portuguese scientists according to the regulations of each organisation.

2. The funding decisions will be made independently, but based on the mutual agreement, according to the Parties' respective rules, regulations and practices.
3. Each project will be funded for a period of three years (to be defined).
4. The parties agree to fund the projects on a balanced basis.
5. The indicative average funding per country is 250 k€ per project for three years. The number of French-Portuguese projects selected for funding and the total amount will strongly depend on the number and quality of the submitted proposals. However, the Parties expect to fund in average 5 projects

IV. Timetable and Announcement of Decision

1. The Parties agree to ensure that all decisions on proposals to be funded according to a common timetable. For the 2012 grant call:
 - July / August 2011: Pre Announcement of the call;
 - October 2011: Publication of the call;
 - December 2011/ January 2012: Deadline for the submission of the proposals;
 - April May 2012: National evaluations
 - June 2012: ANR/FCT decision and publication of results
 - September/October 2012: Notification of grants and projects start
2. ANR and FCT will synchronise the communication on the selected projects.
3. The intent for both Parties is to have an annual joint call while this Memorandum of Understanding is in force.

V. Intellectual property

3. The Parties have no claims on the Intellectual Property rights arising from the selected projects, as the fund they provide constitute a grant in support of the research activity alone. Intellectual property rights belong to the researcher and his/her employing institution. It is of the responsibility of each scientific partner to ensure the efficient protection and proper distribution of any intellectual property arising from the accomplishment of the joint research projects.
4. The project participants shall enter into a Consortium Agreement in order to specify how intellectual property rights will be handled. A Consortium Agreement will need to be in place and reported to ANR and FCT before any grant notification will be made.

VI. Reporting

3. The national principal investigators on behalf of their participating teams will submit to both Parties a common mid-term scientific progress report on the

overall project complemented by a report from each team. ANR and FCT will use these reports to check that project milestones are met. If milestones are not met, ANR and FCT have the right to discontinue funding the project

4. At the end of each project, a formal final report should be submitted to each Party according to its reporting rules.
5. Due acknowledgement of support received from ANR and FCT should be made in the publication of any research resulting from this programme.