

Update December 2020:

***Please note** that as of 1 January 2021, the FWF, ARRS, GACR and NCN will continue their cooperation in the framework of the new cooperation format “**Weave**”. All possibilities for the application of joint research projects described in this information sheet will be continued **without interruption** in Weave. Information on Weave can be found on the websites of FWF, ARRS, GACR and NCN.*

For the CEUS call for which **ARRS acts as the Lead Agency** (Deadline 12 February 2021), the CEUS rules still apply.

CEUS – Central European Science Partnership

Austria – Czech Republic – Poland – Slovenia

Call for Proposals

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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 bilateral Joint Projects between partners from **Austria and Poland** can have a maximum duration of **four years**.

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

The proposed project duration must be **identical for all partners**.

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 research funding organisations involved in the project. 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 will serve as the basis for the decision of 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

The choice of the Lead Agency is up to the applicants. However, the following thresholds apply:

- **Bilateral projects: at least 40%** of the entire project costs must be requested from the Lead Agency.
- **Trilateral projects: at least 25%** of the entire project costs must be requested from 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. Funding threshold

A funding threshold of 20% will be applied, irrespective of which research funding organisations acts as Lead Agency. This means that a proposal in order to be suggested for funding has to be ranked among the top 20 % in the respective national competition.

2.3. 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:

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

2.4. Deadline

The deadline depends on the Lead Agency.

FWF acts as Lead Agency	Proposal submission anytime, no deadline (as of 1 January 2021 submission in the framework of “Weave”)
ARRS acts as Lead Agency	12 February 2021 (if partners from Poland are involved in a trilateral proposal: 31 Dec 2020)
GA ČR acts as Lead Agency	Next call in the framework of “Weave”: deadline TBA
NCN acts as Lead Agency	Next call in the framework of “Weave”: deadline TBA

3. How to submit a proposal

3.1. FWF acts as Lead Agency

3.1.1. Formal requirements of 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/50,000 characters 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 at the latest four months after the submission of the proposal. 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 of ARRS

For **Slovenian applicants**, the [ARRS eligibility criteria and funding limits](#) apply. **Slovenian applicants** must send the signed and stamped **Application Form ARRS-RPROJ-CEUS-2020** (available at <http://www.arrs.si/sl/medn/vodilna/gradivo/obrazci/20/obr-ceus-20.asp>) **directly to ARRS** in an envelope marked “NE ODPIRAJ – Prijava na vodilno agencijo FWF”, and the electronic form to the e-mail address CEUS.FWF@arrs.si.

3.1.3. Formal requirements of GA ČR

Czech applicants need to follow the [GACR eligibility rules and guidelines for calculating costs](#). The **administrative and financial data** of the Czech project part must be submitted via the GRIS system (www.gris.cz), including a **copy of the proposal** which was submitted to FWF.

3.1.4. Formal requirements of 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, 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 persons to be selected in an open call procedure, including persons to be employed as post-docs from the NCN budget; 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** in Annex 1 and the comparative CEUS cost sheet using the exchange rate that will be published in the NCN call documentation must be equal to the budget provided in PLN in the breakdown of the 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 on the Polish side, the research tasks, or any 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 " National Call for Research Projects "
GA ČR acts as Lead Agency	call for GA ČR " LA Grants "
NCN acts as Lead Agency	call for the NCN OPUS programme

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 following documents must be uploaded in the FWF Elane system:

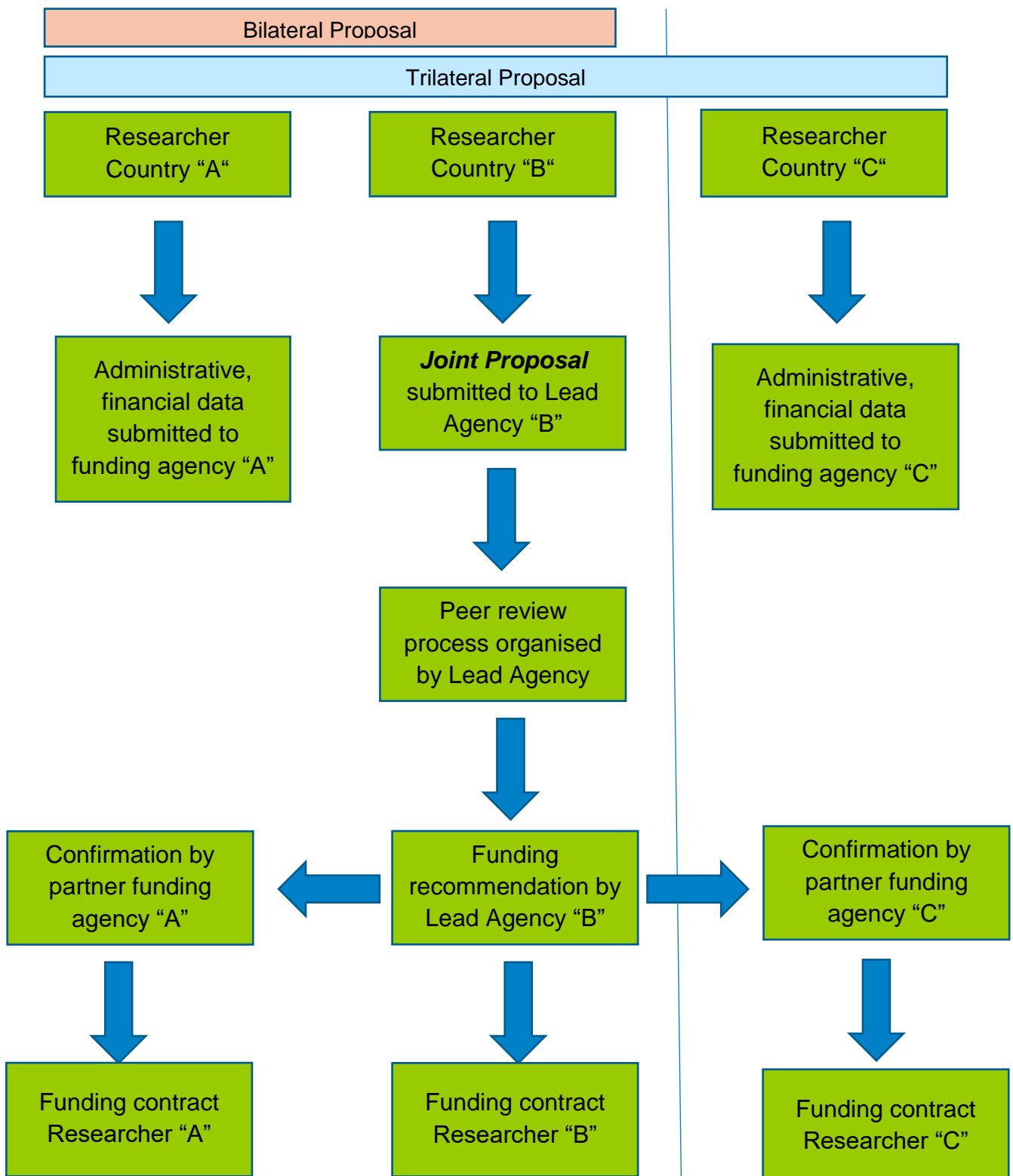
- **Copy of the proposal** submitted to the Lead Agency
- **Budget justification** for the project part to be financed by FWF
- **CV** of the applicant at FWF according to FWF guidelines
- **Publication list** of the applicant at FWF according to FWF guidelines

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

3.2.2. Requirements for applicants from the Czech Republic, Poland, and 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, see sections 3.1.2., 3.1.3., and 3.1.4. above.

4. Graphic summary (bilateral / trilateral consortium)



5. Contacts

FWF – Austrian Science Fund	Dr. Christoph Bärenreuter +43 (0)1 / 505 67 40 – 8702 christoph.baerenreuter@fwf.ac.at
ARRS – Slovenian Research Agency	Aleksandra Panič +386 1 400 5924 aleksandra.panic@arrs.si
GA ČR – Czech Science Foundation	Kamila Pětrašová +420 227 088 863 kamila.petrasova@gacr.cz
NCN – Polish Science Centre	Dr Magdalena Godowska +48 12 341 9016 Magdalena.godowska@ncn.gov.pl