



AUTORITATEA NATIONALA PENTRU CERCETARE STIINTIFICA



**Memorandum of Understanding
between
National Authority for Scientific Research
and
Agence Nationale de la Recherche
on
Joint Calls for Joint Research Projects**

Established between the following partners:

- National Authority for Scientific Research Romania (hereinafter referred to as “ANCS”), located at 21-25, Mendeleev Street, 010362, Bucharest 1, Romania
- Agence Nationale de la Recherche (hereinafter referred to as “ANR”), located at 212 rue de Bercy 75012 Paris, France

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

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to foster the Romanian-French collaboration in scientific research and to fund joint research projects conducted by teams from both countries, based on the provisions of the Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Government of France and the Government of the Popular Republic of Romania, signed in Paris, July 31, 1964.

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 ANCS shall establish a scheme for joint funding of Romanian -French collaborative research projects between the Parties in relation to the Activity.
2. The aim of the funding cooperation is to strengthen the collaboration between Romanian and French 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 Romania and France.
3. Initial priority will be given to the following research areas:
 - a. Physics
 - b. Environment, Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Other priority research areas may be mutually agreed upon through amendment to this Memorandum of Understanding.

II. Joint Funding Scheme

1. The details of the Joint Funding Scheme shall follow the general guidelines set out in **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 to this Memorandum of Understanding, each Party shall abide by the applicable laws and regulations of their respective countries.
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.

11 day of Jan. 2011

On behalf of National Authority for
Scientific Research, Romania

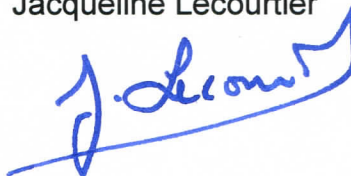
President
Dragoş Mihael Ciuparu



11 day of Janua 2011

On behalf of Agence Nationale de la
Recherche, France

General Director
Jacqueline Lecourtier



Annex 1 – Details on the Joint Funding Scheme

I. Application

1. The Romanian researchers in accordance with UEFISCDI rules (the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding, acting on behalf of ANCS and the French researchers apply for funding in accordance with ANR rules. The Romanian and French applicants shall write a joint proposal that shall be submitted by the partner applicants to UEFISCDI and ANR simultaneously. The joint proposal shall be written in English. Proposals submitted to only one Party will not be eligible. In addition ANR and UEFISCDI would ask for a specific application form, using their own procedures.
2. UEFISCDI will encourage the submission of Romanian/ French proposals within its national “Ideas Programme”, specific call, and will precise the frame, submission modalities, eligibility rules and evaluation process of such projects.
3. ANR will encourage the submission of Romanian/ French proposals within its national call for proposals “Programme Blanc”, and will precise the frame, submission modalities, eligibility rules and evaluation process of such projects.
4. All applicants must fulfil national eligibility rules for their research funding programmes.
5. After the closure date of the UEFISCDI call, UEFISCDI will send to ANR a copy of the applications received at UEFISCDI. After the closure date of the ANR call, ANR will send a copy to UEFISCDI of the applications received at ANR.
6. Each joint proposal will have two co-principal investigators (one for Romanian team and one for French team).
7. **Each Joint proposal shall include at least the following appendices (in English):**
 - a. **Joint abstract** (no more than one page in length)
 - b. **Joint research plan** (no more than fifteen pages), which shall include:
 - A discussion on how the proposed joint project compares with other comparable activities worldwide;
 - A clear description of the planned research collaboration (distribution of work and methods of implementation); Responsibilities of both partners;
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 - A description of the added value to be expected from the collaboration;
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 - 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 on-going activities and specific advantages of the Romanian 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 Romania and France over the long term.
- 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 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. UEFISCDI and ANR 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 Romanian-French 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), UEFISCDI will fund Romanian scientists ANR and will fund French 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.
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 Romanian / French projects selected for funding and the total amount will strongly depend on the number and quality of the submitted projects. However, the Parties expect to fund 4 projects per year in the first year of implementation.

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 2011 grant call:
 - ...: Pre Announcement of the call;
 - 14 January: Publication of the call;
 - 15 April: Deadline for the submission of the proposals;
 - ...: National evaluations
 - September 2011: ANCS / ANR decision and publication of results
 - November 2011: Notification of grants and projects start
2. UEFISCDI and ANR will synchronise the communication on the selected projects.
3. The intent for both Parties is to have at least an annual joint call while this Memorandum of Understanding is in force.

V. Intellectual property

1. 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/or to 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.

2. 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 UEFISCDI and ANR before any grant notification will be made.

VI. Reporting

1. The national principal investigators on behalf of their participating teams will submit to UEFISCDI and ANR a common mid-term scientific progress report on the overall project complemented by a report from each team. UEFISCDI and ANR will use these reports to check that project milestones are met. If milestones are not met, UEFISCDI and ANR have the right to discontinue funding the project.
2. At the end of each project, a formal final report should be submitted to UEFISCDI and ANR according to its reporting rules.
3. Due acknowledgement of support received from ANCS and ANR should be made in the publication of any research resulting from this programme.