

Agreement

between the

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSNF)

and the

Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS)

(referred to as "Partner Organisations")

on a

Lead Agency Procedure

for

the unilateral administration of the evaluation procedure and the mutual recognition of the evaluation results concerning Swiss-Slovenian Joint Bilateral Projects

1. Preamble

SNSF and ARRS agree in the future for Swiss-Slovenian Joint Bilateral Projects (hereafter: "Bilateral Projects") to conduct a unilaterally administered evaluation procedure (hereafter: "Evaluation Procedure"), the results of which will be mutually recognised by the SNSF and the ARRS subject to the approval of their respective decision-making bodies.

The present agreement aims to:

- make applications for Bilateral Projects easier;
- simplify the evaluation procedure of the Bilateral Projects;
- decrease the workload of the scientific community in peer review procedures;
- increase scientific added value;
- strengthen Swiss-Slovenian joint bilateral co-operations;
- develop mutually recognized quality standards.

2. Evaluation of Bilateral Projects

The Evaluation Procedure applies to Bilateral Projects that promise a scientific added value as a result of the cross-border cooperation and whose individual parts in the two countries therefore do not represent separate projects and therefore cannot be funded alone.

The Evaluation Procedure is guided by the following principles:

- 1.) The Partner Organisation in charge of the Evaluation Procedure acts as the Lead Agency. The Partner Organisations take turns as Lead Agency on a yearly basis. If the SNSF is the Lead Agency, ARRS informs the SNSF two months after the submission deadline about the available budget for the current evaluation round. The Lead Agency proposes for funding as many Bilateral Projects as can be financed from the available budget.
- 2.) The individual responsible for a Bilateral Project submits the overall application according to the application guidelines of the Lead Agency.
- 3.) The Lead Agency informs the Partner Organisation of the application and asks it to conduct a formal check of the respective national project part. Bilateral Projects that fail to meet the formal requirement of either Organisation are not considered for evaluation. The Lead Agency informs about the decision according to its standard procedures.
- 4.) The Lead Agency conducts the Evaluation Procedure in accordance with its standard procedures that apply for the respective funding instrument. The Partner Organisation is invited to propose reviewers. The Lead Agency informs the external reviewers that their names and reviews may be communicated to the Partner Organisation. The Partner Organisation assures the confidential treatment of this information.
- 5.) The Lead Agency forwards the result of the review process to the Partner Organisation (funding / no funding), including the complete, non-anonymised reviews. The Partner Organisation assures the confidential treatment of this information.
- 6.) In case of a positive funding decision, the Partner Organisation presents the result of the review process and the decision of the Lead Agency to its decision-making body and asks for the confirmation of the Lead Agency's decision. The Partner Organisation does not conduct its own evaluation, but confirms the decision of the Lead Agency.
- 7.) If exceptional circumstances prevent the Partner Organisation from following the decision of the Lead Agency, it has to provide an explanation to the Lead Agency. If no agreement can be reached between the Lead Agency and the Partner Organisation, the proposal is considered as rejected.
- 8.) The Lead Agency informs the applicants of the result of the evaluation and the funding decision first. The Partner Organisation then also informs the applicants in its country.
- 9.) In case of a positive funding decision, each Partner Organisation provides the amount of its project contribution according to its applicable rules.
- 10.) Both Partner Organisations require interim and final reports on the project according to their applicable rules.

This Agreement comes into effect with its ratification by the organisations involved. It is valid until 31 December 2020. An extension is subject to a positive evaluation of the procedure. An earlier termination of the contract is possible with 6 months' notice.

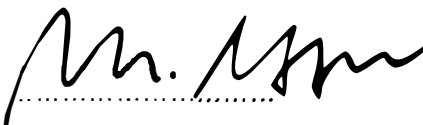
ARRS

Signature: .....

Prof. József Györkös
Director

Date: 29. 1. 2019

SNSF

Signature: .....

Prof. Matthias Egger
President of the Research Council

Date: 29. 1. 2019

Signature: .....

Prof. Angelika Kalt
Director

Date: 29. 1. 2019