

WORK PROGRAMME 2014

BUILDING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA) AND FRANCE'S INTERNATIONAL ATTRACTIVENESS

@RACTION HOSTING OF HIGH-LEVEL RESEARCHERS

Closing date for the call for proposals
24/06/2014 at 1 p.m. (Paris time)

Address for the announcement of the call for proposals
<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/ATRaction-2014>

KEY DATES

CLOSING DATE FOR THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Project proposals are to be submitted to the National Funding Agency for Research (ANR) submission web site (site link available from the ANR web site, on the call for proposals page whose address can be found on page 1) prior to closure of the call for proposals:

JUNE 24TH 2014 AT 1 P.M. (PARIS TIME)

(see Section 3.3)

SIGNED AND SCANNED DOCUMENTS

The host institution is to attest that it is a participant in the project proposal, by signing the call for proposals administrative and financial document, which can be printed out upon closure of the call for proposals, via the ANR submission web site. After scanning the said document in PDF format, the candidate (acting in the capacity of principal investigator) is to submit to the submission web site all administrative and financial documents, which are to be signed, devoid of any lined-through items, and devoid of any changes in respect of the information entered online. The deadline for the foregoing is as follows:

July 8th 2014 at 1 p.m. (Paris time)

(see Section 3.4)

CONTACTS

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ANR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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Make sure to read this document attentively, as well as the ANR grant rules (available at <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/RF>), before submitting your project proposal.

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1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE @RACTION PROGRAM

1.1. CONTEXT

The capacity to have top-flight foreign researchers work for extended periods at our research facilities is a key component of scientific positioning at the international level. The objective of the @RAction program is to enable such researchers to work at French research facilities by offering the best of them substantial funding for the conduct of ambitious research, and to enable them to relocate to France for extended periods.

The @RAction program (short for *Accueil de Chercheurs de Haut Niveau*) is thus part of an overarching and long term strategy aimed at strengthening France's research and technological innovation, via international activities, together with a strong commitment on the part of the French research community and the relevant host institutions. @RAction operates under the aegis of *Construction de l'Espace Européen de la Recherche (EER) et attractivité internationale de la France* (Realization of the European Research Area and development of France's international appeal) of the ANR Action Plan.

This call for proposals, which is an outgrowth of the existing *Retour Post-Doctorant* and *Chaires d'Excellence* programs, aims to revitalize previously realized initiatives and to round out and strengthen other French and EU measures of the same type.

1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This call for proposals is aimed at up and coming scientific talent (junior researchers) and well-established top-flight researchers (senior researchers) currently living abroad. These candidates are to have spent the bulk of their postdoctoral careers abroad. The aim of the major funding that the @RAction program will be providing is to enable @RAction researchers to conduct their research under world-class host institution conditions.

In terms of the development of domestic research, the substantial funding that the @RAction program will be providing aims to accomplish the following:

- Form a team and carry out an ambitious project that is expected to have a major impact.
- Strengthen the potential of French research facilities by enabling them to explore new avenues of research that are not or are only rarely explored in France, while at the same time enabling these facilities to benefit from the participation, skills, and expertise of seasoned international experts, notably via access to new international networks.

It is essential that each candidate's proposal display a robust commitment to the establishment of research at host structures such as EPSTs (public scientific and technological institutions), universities and so on.

The main objectives of a given project, as well as the impact it is expected to achieve, are as follows:

- Long term involvement of the principal investigator, in the host facility or another French facility, i.e. involvement during a period of time that is competitive and that will have a long-term impact.
- Facilitation of the emergence of new cutting-edge scientific and technological domains that are rare or nonexistent in France today. Expediting the acquisition of expertise thanks to the contribution made by new competencies and international networks. Also: contribution, in these domains, to the dissemination of knowledge at institutions of higher education.
- Definitive strengthening, by @RAction researchers, of the ties between the host facility and foreign facilities; and notably a major increase in the host institution's international visibility and appeal.
- Support for and strengthening of scientific policy and activities on the part of the host facility.

2. ATTRIBUTES OF THE @RACTION PROGRAM

2.1. THEMATIC ASPECTS

Proposals from all scientific domains are welcome and may involve any of the following: basic research; technological or industrial research.

2.2. PROGRAM RELATED CANDIDATE PROFILES AND PROGRAM ATTRIBUTES

The @RAction program is aimed at the following two profiles of French or foreign researchers who are working abroad or who have recently moved to France: **junior** researchers and **senior** researchers. *Junior-researcher* candidates are to demonstrate that they have acquired a level of excellence that has gained international recognition, thanks to their scientific research. *Senior-researcher* candidates are to have a widely recognized, high-level international track record.

Candidates are to have spent the bulk of their postdoctoral scientific career abroad. In other words, as at the closing date of the call for proposals, the candidates are to have spent a minimum of 24 months abroad following completion of their doctoral thesis (eligibility criterion; see Section 4.1). Moreover, candidates are to have obtained their research doctorate (or any credential that is the equivalent of the international standard for the Ph.D.) prior to 1 July 2012 (eligibility criterion; see Section 4.1). There is no age limit.

Any candidate who is currently residing in France is to have lived in France for less than six months as at the closing date of the call for proposals (strongly recommended; see Section 3.7). The said period may be extended by six months in cases where, for example, a candidate has a Marie-Curie stipend¹ (see Section 3.7 for further details).

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

Candidates are to be in a position to relocate to France without delay following granting of the ANR financing (strongly recommended; see Section 3.7), i.e. six months following the granting of such financing. Any candidate for whom this period is unfeasible will need to submit a cogent argument in order to obtain an extension.

Candidates should be prepared to devote a substantial amount of their time to their project during the project period. Above all, they will be required to spend a considerable amount of time at the host facility and should be prepared to devote at least half of their time to the project for the period as a whole (recommendation, see Section 3.7).

During the ANR project submission phase and subsequent financing phase, @RAction researchers are encouraged to apply for positions that may open up at institutions of higher education or at research institutions.

For both junior and senior candidates, the period of activity abroad is not to have involved your making yourself available to any French research institution, any such institution having been made available to you, or any secondment for any such institution.

2.3. PROJECTS ATTRIBUTES

The main purpose of the @RAction program is to enable top-flight researchers to carry out research in France for an extended period. Hence the minimum period of the proposed projects is to be 36 months and the maximum period is to be 48 months (eligibility criterion, see Section 4.1).

It is **essential** that your proposal relate to a host facility and host institution (sponsoring institution) that are located in France, to the exclusion of any international facility that is affiliated with any French research institution or with any French institution that is located abroad.

The host institutions are to exhibit a robust commitment to the various projects, to which end these institutions are to define and quantify, in collaboration with the candidate (and in the scientific dossier) the resources that will be placed at the candidate's disposal such as the following: financing of the candidate's doctoral or postdoctoral thesis; official involvement in the candidate's project on the part of the host organism's scientific and/or technical personnel; providing the candidate with a dedicated workspace or creating such workspace for the candidate; equipment; funding in addition that that requested from the ANR. The relevant origin is also to be indicated, e.g. Idex, Labex, region and so on.

2.4. RESEARCH GRANTS ATTRIBUTES

Candidates are encouraged to propose projects that merit ANR funding ranging from €150,000 to €900,000 (recommendation; see Section 3.7). However, this **does not** rule out the

possibility that projects whose funding is less than or greater than this range will be approved.

ANR funding can cover all or part of the candidate's salary (expenses for non-permanent personnel). The following types of project expenses (among others) can be covered by ANR funding: operating expenses (personnel expenses; lab expenses; relocation expenses; service costs); and equipment expenses. For further information as to which types of expenses can be covered by ANR funding, see the ANR grant rules.²

For candidates who are hired under a permanent contract, it may be possible for the candidate's project funding to be maintained and used for the purpose of heightening the impact and deployment of the project. Any such change would be subject to ANR approval.

For candidates who are hired by another host institution under a permanent contract, it may be possible for the candidate's project funding to be maintained, and transferred to the new institution. Any such transfer of project funding would be subject to ANR approval, and would in particular require the new host institution to draw up a revised contract.

Candidates are encouraged to seek additional funding aimed at heightening the overall impact of their project.

3. PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

3.1 WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT A PROJECT PROPOSAL?

Project proposals are to be submitted by each candidate in his or her capacity as principal investigator. However, once a given project has been selected for financing, the ANR will conclude a contract with the institution (moral person) and not with the principal investigator (physical person). Hence before submitting his or her proposal, the principal investigator needs to ensure himself or herself of the commitment on the part of the host institution that will need to sign the financing agreement in the event the candidate is selected.

3.2 DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

Your project proposal is to comprise the following documents:

- A form (to be completed online).
- A scientific document (to be submitted to the submission web site).
- An administrative and financial document, signed by the candidate and the legal representative of the host institution (to be submitted to the submission web site).

² <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/RF>

Your project will be deemed complete and thus eligible for consideration, insofar as the aforesaid three elements are completed and submitted to the submission web site by the closing date indicated on page 2.

IMPORTANT

No additional element will be accepted upon closure of the call for proposals, whose date and time are indicated on page 2 of this document.

3.3 ONLINE FORM

The following information (without limitation) is to be entered online (the link to the submission web site can be found on the call for proposals page on the ANR website, whose address is indicated on page 1):

- Project identity (acronym, title in French and English, duration and so on)
- Identification of the partner (full name of the host institution; insignia; partner category; basis for calculation of financial support; unit type and number; institutions of higher education; management and host institution of higher education for a research organism lab; SIRET number; and so on).
- Identification of the candidate; address of the location where the work will be carried out.
- Financial information, broken down by expense item.
- Scientific précis (max. 4,000 characters per field): non-confidential scientific resume of the project in French and English; overall objectives; scientific and technological hurdles; work program; anticipated scientific, technical and economic effects/spin-offs. *The said précis are mainly intended for submission to experts who will be asked to participate in the vetting process. You should take particular care in composing these précis, so as to encourage the experts that are contacted to agree to participate, and to allow for a suitable evaluation of your project.*
- Experts that you do **not** wish to be selected to evaluate your proposal (this information is optional).

The information above can be modified until the closing date of the call for proposals.

It is **strongly recommended** that you do the following:

- Begin entering your administrative and financial information online at least one week prior to the closing date of the call for proposals.
- Save the information that you entered on each page of the submission web site before leaving the page.
- Don't wait till the last minute to finalize the project proposal submission procedure.

Project proposal principal investigator will receive an e-mail confirmation of submission upon closing of the call for proposals, provided that a scientific document was submitted to the submission web site and that the request for funding has been completed (zero sum).

3.4 ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENT

You can generate the administrative and financial documents on the submission web site ("télécharger le document à signer" on the "soumission du projet" tab) after entering your information online.

The said document is to be signed by the candidate **and** by the legal representative of the host institution.

After being signed, the said document is to be scanned (in PDF format) and uploaded to the ANR the submission web site by the candidate, by the deadline indicated on page 2. Your proposal will be deemed complete (and thus eligible for consideration) if the said document has been signed and has been uploaded to the submission web site.

3.5 SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENT

The scientific document is to be submitted to the submission web site in PDF format, is to be no more than **42 pages long**, is not to be protected in any manner whatsoever (e.g. read/write protection), is to be generated using word processing software and is **not** to be a scan. The aforesaid total maximum number of pages refers to the entirety of the document, and no appendices will be accepted. **The submission web site will block the uploading of any document that does meet these requirements.**

The document formatting should be reader friendly, i.e. A4 paper, Times New Roman 11 pt. or equivalent, single-spaced, 2 cm margins, numbered pages.

Your scientific document is to be in English if the evaluation can be carried out by non-French speaking experts. If your scientific document is in French, you may be required to supply an English translation of it.

Your scientific document concerning your project proposal; is to contain the following information (**no template will be provided for the document**):

- In the header: the acronym of the project proposal and the call for proposals; and the year (2014).
- **Full title of the project proposal (in bold)**
- Table of contents
- Précis of the project, as entered online at the submission web site.

Informations concerning the candidate

Last name, first name	
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Institution where you obtained your doctorate	
Date upon which you obtained your doctorate	
Start and end dates of each professional stint of more than three months' duration outside of France (since obtaining your doctorate)	
Your current position	
Your current work address	
Start date of your current position	
If applicable, indicate when you began residing in France	

Informations concerning the host facility

Name of the host entity	
Address of the host facility	
Head of the host facility	
Name of a researcher contact within the host facility	
Position held by the said contact	

1. Relevance of the proposal to the thrust of the @RAction program (1-2 pages)

This section will allow for an evaluation concerning the "Relevance of the proposal to the thrust of the @RAction program" criterion.

Provide a general introduction concerning the issue/problem that the project will be addressing and where it stands vis-à-vis the thrust of the @RAction program. Against the backdrop of the project's objectives, indicate where it stands relative to the social, economic, regulatory, environmental, industrial and other challenges and issues that come into play at the domestic, European and international levels.

2. Context, status and objective of the proposed project (8-12 pages)

This section will allow for an evaluation concerning the "Scientific excellence and/or innovative character for technological research" criterion.

Describe the project's objectives and the scientific and technical hurdles that will need to be overcome during the project realization phase. Underscore in particular here the ambitious and/or innovative nature of the proposal. If desired, describe any end products that will be developed and the anticipated outcomes of the project.

Describe the state of knowledge for the topic at hand and point out any contributions the candidate may have made to this state of knowledge. Describe any preliminary results.

Describe the candidate via elements that will allow for an evaluation of his or her high-level skills and accomplishments in respect of the proposed project. This can involve past activities, or indicators such

as publications, patents and the like. It is essential that section also contain the candidate's CV (maximum two pages).

Describe the host facility. Specify why this particular facility was chosen for this particular project and describe the host institution if necessary.

If relevant, describe the context of the project in terms of its objectives, and analyze the social, economic, regulatory, environmental, industrial and other challenges/issues that come into play. Describe where the project stands relative to the context described in Section 1, i.e. vis-à-vis (a) competing, complementary, or past projects and research; and (b) patents and standards.

Situate the project in terms of the relevant domestic circumstances (indicate whether the project has ties to any regional/national structure or platform, with a project that is supported by "Programme Investissements d'Avenir" and so on) and/or the European and or international circumstances. The candidate is also expected to indicate how his or her project will generate new competencies of which there is little or no trace in basic or applied research in France.

3. Scientific and technical program; organizational structure of the project; reasons for the financing being requested (10-15 pages)

This section will allow for an evaluation concerning the "Quality of the project's structure and feasibility" criterion.

Describe the scientific program and indicate how its breakdown into work program tasks, in light of the objectives being pursued.

Indicate the following for each task: objectives and possible indicators of success; the role and involvement of the candidate and of associated members; the detailed work program; project deliverables; contributions of the various members (division of labor, i.e. who will be doing what); methods and technical choices; the manner in which the solutions will be realized; risks and envisaged backup solutions. If deemed necessary, the timelines for the various task and their related elements can be presented as a graphic, using a Gantt diagram or the like.

If applicable, demonstrate the relationship between the relevant scientific disciplines and the synergy of the areas of expertise that will come into play. For research projects involving areas that could be harmful to humans, animals and/or the environment, discuss the ethical dimensions of the project.

Provide a scientific and technical rationale for the financing being requested (as indicated on the submission web site), broken down by the main expense items as follows (excluding management or organizational expenses): equipment; personnel (including any candidate salary); operating expenses. Insofar as any financing to be provided beyond the amount that the ANR will be providing, indicate this financing and the origin thereof (e.g. host facility, host institution, Idex, Labex, support from the relevant region) in a clear and detailed manner, as well as how this funding will dovetail/intermesh with that requested from the ANR.

4. Nature of the candidate-facility-institution partnership (2-3 pages)

This section will allow for an evaluation concerning the "Nature of the candidate-facility-institution partnership" criterion.

Indicate what prompted the candidate to select this particular host facility and the value that this choice would be creating relative to other host facilities, in terms of realization of the project.

Explain why it is strategically important for the host facility for the candidate and his or her project to be based there, and how this will strengthen the host facility's scientific policy. Elements of this

explanation may refer to the letter of intent in section 5 of the scientific document.

Describe in detail how, within the context of the project, the host facility and institution plan to consolidate the candidate's contribution over the long haul. We strongly recommend that you elaborate a roadmap concerning deployment of the project and its contribution to the competencies of the host facility, the strategy of the host facility and institution, and the establishment of new international networks.

5. Overall impact of the proposed project; validation, protection and exploitation strategy for project outcomes (1-3 pages)

This section will allow for an evaluation concerning the "Overall impact of the project" criterion.

Describe the following in detail: the anticipated impact of the project on the emergence of new cutting-edge scientific and technological domains that are rare in France; strengthening and establishment of ties between the host facility and foreign labs, via the candidate; dissemination of knowledge via institutions of higher education and identifying domains that are being given short shrift in France; the candidate's future career.

Indicate the intellectual property principles that will be applied during the project in respect of the candidate's relationship with the host institution.

Describe the manner in which the project will have a major longer-term impact on the host institution and entity, particularly in terms of international visibility and/or appeal.

This section is also to address the following issues: scientific communication; ways in which scientific and technical culture will be promoted (communication with other scientific communities, the general public and so on); contributions to college training; validation of the anticipated results, by describing the broad outlines of the manner in which project outcomes will be protected and exploited; anticipated scientific, technical, industrial and economic ramifications/outcomes. Also indicate the following, if applicable: any other project effects/spin-offs (e.g. standardization, providing government authorities with information); timelines and nature of the anticipated technical and economic effects/spin-offs; possible impact on employment and/or the creation of new activities.

6. Letter of intent from the host facility and possibly from the host institution (1-3 pages)

This letter can repeat elements from and/or can dovetail/intermesh with the information from section 3 (among others) of the scientific document. The letter is to be written and signed by the head of the host facility, as well as by the official head of the host institution, and is to confirm the host facility's support and commitment (in terms of hosting quality, resources and the like), as indicated in the other sections.

Bibliographical references

The project proposal will **only** be deemed eligible for consideration if the scientific document meets the following formal criteria: adherence to the record format, the total number of pages, and the plan indicated (including the table of contents and the information table concerning the candidate and the host facility).

3.6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations in this section are intended as advice for preparation of project proposals in connection with this call for proposals.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PERSONNEL INVOLVEMENT

The relevance of any failure to adhere to these recommendations will be evaluated in respect of the “Quality of the project’s structure and feasibility” criterion.

- As at the closing date of the call for proposals, the candidate is to be either working abroad, or is to have been living in France for less than six months. If this is not the case, the candidate is to make a cogent argument. If, for example, the candidate is receiving a Marie Curie stipend³ or equivalent as at the closing date of the call for proposals, the candidate may qualify for an extension of the said period with the goal of enabling the candidate to live in France for an extended period (discuss with the host institution the candidate’s career plans and the timeline thereof).
- The candidate should relocate to France quickly, i.e. it is strongly recommended that the candidate relocate within no more than six months following implementation of the financing. If the said six months period is exceeded, the candidate is expected to make a cogent and detailed argument.
- It is recommended that the candidate devote a considerable amount of his or her time to the project during the project phase, and that in particular he or she spend considerable time in the host lab. The principal investigator should spend at least half of his time on the project, but is also free to distribute this time flexibly (i.e. unevenly) across the project realization phase.
- The funding period for holders of postdoctoral degrees should be 12 months at a minimum.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE ANR FUNDING APPLICATION

ANR will provide between €150,000 and €900,000 for each project that is financed in connection with this call for proposals. However, this **does not** rule out the possibility that projects whose funding is less than or greater than this range will be approved. The relevance of any failure to adhere to this recommendation will be assessed by evaluating project suitability relative to project resources (“Quality of the project’s structure and feasibility” criterion). Funding can be used for equipment or for operational purposes. In particular, the ANR can be asked to fund all or part of the principal investigator’s salary (expenses for non-permanent personnel). For further information on the expenses that are eligible for funding, see the ANR grant rules.⁴

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CULTURAL AND COMMUNICATION MEASURES

- Scientific and technical cultural and communication measures are eligible for ANR funding. They are required to clearly demonstrate a connection with the project and

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

⁴ <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/RF>

show that they aim to achieve an ambitious impact. In this regard, the target groups such as the media, youth, educators and the like are to be specified. Projects should be designed in such a way that professionals in the field of scientific communication/mediation are associated with the project (e.g. communication directors of corporations and research institutions; operators of scientific cultural entities and so on). The financial resources earmarked for these activities should not exceed 10 percent of the total grant being requested.

- Such activities should be subject to a task that is clearly identified in the project proposal, and that will be evaluated as an element of global project impact ("global project impact" evaluation criterion).
- For further information concerning the integration of scientific culture and communication measures, consult the relevant page on the ANR web site.⁵

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING MEASURES THAT BENEFIT HIGHER EDUCATION

- The contribution made by a given project to training at the college level can strengthen the project's impact, particularly measures that promote the incorporation of current research issues into college syllabuses. The projects financed by the ANR may incorporate this type of measure into their work program. Proposed measures that aim to benefit higher education are to be directly related to the project content. Such measures can be widely diverse in nature (e.g. web site creation; designing and developing original instructional tools based on research materials; series of lectures). The financial resources earmarked for these activities should not exceed 10 percent of the total grant being requested.
- Insofar as such measures are incorporated into a research project, they will be evaluated as an element of global project impact ("global project impact" evaluation criterion).

4 PROJECT PROPOSAL VETTING

The ANR will conduct the selection process by involving various entities whose respective roles will be as follows:

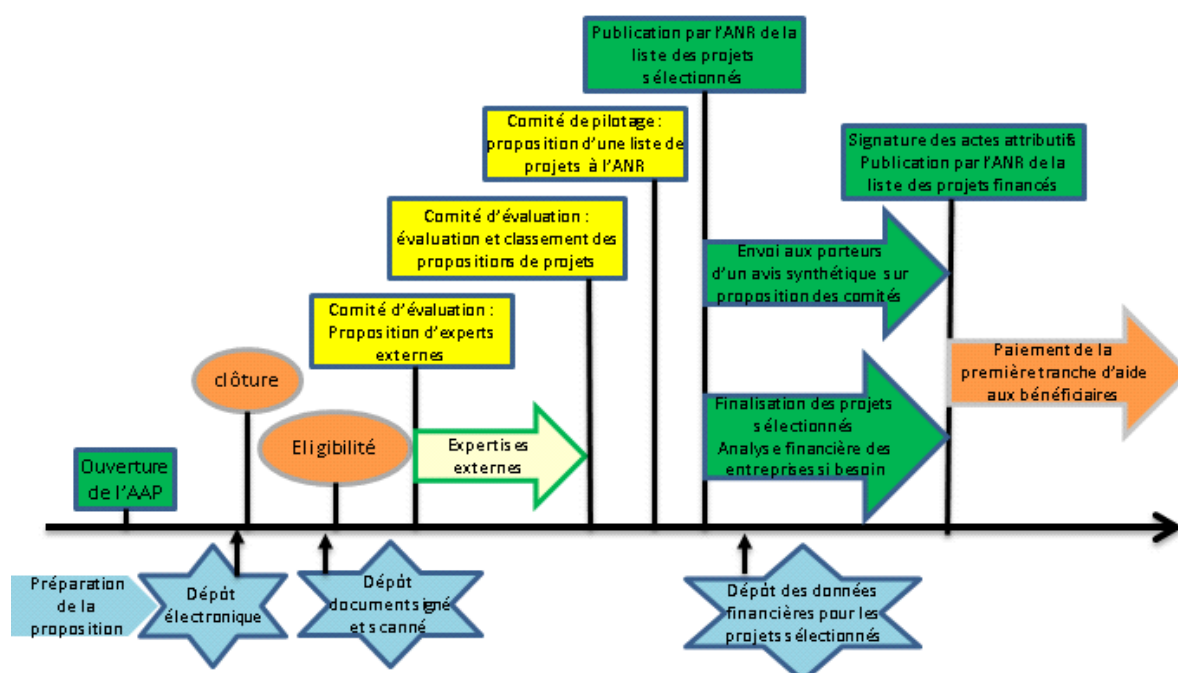
- The evaluation committee will be tasked with evaluating the various project proposals based on external peer reviews, and will categorize the various projects in relation to each other. The committee will be composed of private or public sector French or foreign members of the relevant research communities.
- The external experts that are recommended by the evaluation committee will submit written opinions on the project proposals. At least two experts will review each project.
- The steering committee will be composed of qualified individuals and institutional representatives and will be tasked with recommending a list of projects for ANR financing, in a manner commensurate with the evaluation committee's work.

⁵ <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/Diffusion>

The individuals involved in the proposal vetting process will be obligated to abide by the provisions of the ANR code of professional ethics, particularly those provisions concerning confidentiality and conflicts of interest. The ANR code of professional ethics is available from the ANR web site.⁶

The procedures and organizational structures of the evaluation and steering committees are described in documents that are available from the ANR web site.⁷

On publication of the list of selected projects, the makeup of the program committees will be posted on the ANR web site.⁸



Following are the main phases of the vetting process:

- The ANR will determine the eligibility of the project proposals, based on the criteria set forth in Section 4.1.
- The ANR will ask external experts recommended by the evaluation committee to participate in the vetting process.
- The external experts will express their opinions, based on the criteria set forth in Section 4.2.
- The evaluation committee will review the project proposals on receipt of the said expert opinions.
- The steering committee will review the project proposals and will draw up a recommended list of projects for financing by the ANR.

⁶ <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/CharteDeontologieSelection>

⁷ <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/Comites>

⁸ See the web site address on p. 1

- A final list of projects selected by the ANR will be drawn up (main list and possibly an auxiliary list) and the list will be posted on the call for proposals page on the ANR web site.
- The principal investigators of the projects will be sent a summary opinion, based on the committees' recommendations.
- The scientific, financial and administrative dossiers for the projects that have been selected will be revised and finalized (exchanges between the principal investigators and the ANR), as indicated in Section 5.
- The contracts with the various grant recipients will be signed.
- The list of projects that have been selected will be posted on the call for proposals page of the ANR web site.
- Initial payments will be made to grant recipients, in accordance with the ANR grant rules.⁹

4.1 VERIFICATION OF ÉLIGIBILITY

IMPORTANT

ANR will verify proposal eligibility based on the information that is available as at the call for proposals closing date. Projects will be declared ineligible if any of the requested information is missing or entered improperly, or in the event of any discrepancy between the information entered online and the information that appears in the scientific document. Any project proposal that is deemed ineligible will not be considered and cannot be financed by the ANR.

A project proposal will be deemed eligible if:

- it is complete and if it meets the format requirements set forth in Section 3.5;
- the project falls within the scope of the call for proposals as described in Section 1;
- the project involves "recherche fondamentale"¹⁰ [basic research] or "recherche industrielle" [industrial research];
- the project duration is between 36 and 48 months;
- the project involves one partner only, which cannot be an entity known as an "organisme de recherche" (research organization) and must be located in France;
- the principal investigator earned his or her research doctorate (or equivalent equating to the international Ph.D. standard) prior to 1 July 2012 (the ANR reserves the right to require that proof be submitted in this regard, insofar as a grant is awarded). There is no age limit.
- **as at the closing date of the call for proposals, the principal investigator has spent a minimum of 24 months abroad following completion of his or her doctoral thesis;**

⁹ <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/RF>

¹⁰ The definitions of the terms in quotation marks are to be consulted in the regulation concerning ANR grant awards (<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/RF>)

- **the candidate does not hold a *poste à durée indéterminée*¹¹ in a French organization as at the closing date of the call for proposals.**

A project proposal will be deemed eligible **solely** if it meets **all** of the aforesaid criteria.

Project proposals will be disqualified if multiple proposals are submitted by a principal investigator in connection with this call for proposals.

A project proposal will be disqualified if it is submitted by a principal investigator who is also a member of the evaluation or steering committee of this call for proposals.

Project proposals will be disqualified that the ANR deems:

- indistinguishable¹² from a previously funded project or a project that is in the process of being vetted in connection with an ANR call for proposals;
- non-original.¹³

4.2 PROJECT PROPOSAL EVALUATION

IMPORTANT

Only those project proposals that meet the mandated eligibility criteria will be evaluated by the external experts and the members of the evaluation committee.

The external experts and members of the evaluation committee will be instructed to evaluate the project proposals in accordance with the following evaluation criteria:

1) Relevance to the thrust of the @RAction program

- Compliance of the proposal with the objectives set forth in Section 1.

2) Scientific excellence and/or innovative nature, for technological research

- Scientific excellence of the project owner
- Scientific originality and excellence of the project
- The extent to which the project will contribute something new to basic or applied research in France

3) Quality of the project structure; project feasibility

- Involvement of the candidate in the project
- Relevance of the timeline in terms of project objectives

¹¹ permanent position

¹² A proposal is deemed to be indistinguishable from another proposal insofar as two project proposals, in whole or in part, describe identical main objectives, or result from a mere adaptation, and involve teams that are largely identical.

¹³ A proposal is deemed non-original (i.e. plagiarized) insofar as the project proposal borrows or copies, in whole or in part, previous writings whose sources are not cited.

- The extent to which the project and resources being requested from ANR or elsewhere are in sync with each other (competencies, operations, equipment and so on).
- 4) Quality of the partnership between the candidate, entity and institution**
- Candidate quality
 - The extent to which the host facility and the candidate are in sync with each other for purposes of carrying out the project.
 - The extent to which the scientific project and research policy of the host facility are in sync with each other.
 - The extent which the requested funding will create value for the host facility, the host institution and the candidate.
 - Scope of the resources that the entity and institution will earmark for hosting the candidate and realization of the project.
- 5) Overall impact of the project**
- Overall impact of the project in terms of research and innovation.
 - Extent to which the project will heighten the visibility and appeal of the host facility.
 - International networks that the project will provide
 - Scientific and technical cultural and communication measures
 - Measures that will benefit higher education

Each project proposal will be evaluated by at least two experts who are not members of the various committees and each of whom will be asked to evaluate one or more projects. The experts will conduct their evaluations independently of each other and in a confidential manner, without engaging in any exchanges with third parties. They will have at their disposal solely those elements comprising the project proposals as submitted by each of the principal investigators on the call for proposals closing date.

The experts will complete individual evaluation reports where conformance with each of the evaluation criteria will be scored on a scale of 1 to 5 and will enter verbal explanations of their scores for each criterion.

Score	Meaning
0	Criterion not addressed or that cannot be evaluated on the basis of the information provided.
1	Deficient: criterion handled superficially or in an unsatisfactory manner.
2	Mediocre: criteria handled in a relatively satisfactory manner, but there are serious weaknesses.
3	Good: criterion handled well, but there is room for improvement.
4	Very good: criterion handled quite well, any deficiencies are minor.
5	Excellent: criterion handled impeccably with no deficiencies.

The project proposals will also be evaluated by at least two evaluation committee members, who will have at their disposal the individual evaluation reports written by the experts. The

committee members will draft their own individual evaluation reports, using the same criteria and scoring as the experts.

At the final meeting of the evaluation committee, the members will briefly describe the goals of each proposal and will summarize the experts' evaluations, as well as their own opinions; in so doing they will place particular emphasis on the relevant strong and weak points.

A collegial discussion of each proposal in turn will allow for a competitive evaluation of the proposals, and will afford the members the opportunity to compare the quality of the proposals they have personally evaluated against the backdrop of all the proposals that have been evaluated by the committee. The committee's discussions will yield a consensus that will be expressed by placing the proposals in one of the following three categories, relative to each other: (1) Outstanding proposals that fully deserve to be selected (on the order of 10 percent). (2) Proposals that provoked minor comments and that could thus be selected, insofar as the requisite financial resources are available. (3) Proposals that do not meet the mandated selection criteria. The consensus reached by the committee will be summarized in a final evaluation report.

4.3 SELECTION CRITERIA

The steering committee will recommend the final classification of the project proposals, in a manner in keeping with the work conducted by the evaluation committee.

The main topics of discussion that will form the basis for the said classifications will be as follows:

- Strategic relevance of the proposed topics and of the social, economic and scientific points of view.
- Synergy between/intermeshing of the various proposals (challenges; disciplines; junior/senior; genre)

5 FINANCING PROCEDURES FOR THE PROJECTS THAT ARE SELECTED

The manner in which ANR funding is granted is set forth in the ANR grant rules.¹⁴ Each project principal investigator should read the said document attentively in order to carry out the project (with the aid of the host facility and institution), particularly from a budgetary standpoint, and in accordance with the stipulations therein. The ANR will conclude a grant contract with each host institution that receives ANR funding.

The projects funded by the ANR will be subject to ANR monitoring during the realization phase of the projects, until such time as they are completed. This monitoring will involve the following:

¹⁴ <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/RF>

- The principal investigators are to attend the kick-off meeting for the projects hereof.
- One or two interim progress reports are to be submitted, depending on project duration.
- Submission of summaries of goals, work activities and project outcomes, updated as at the date of issuance, for use in ANR publications in all media.
- Submission of a final project report, which is necessary in order to attribute the balance of ANR funding.
- Compiling a list of all ways in which the project has had an impact for a period of one year following completion of the project.
- Participation in at least one interim project review
- Participation in one or more ANR colloquia.

The project proposals are to take into account the counterpart workload in their work program.