

Lead Agency Principle (co)funding scheme

# WEAVE - INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Department of International Cooperation

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# Weave - Information for applicants

## Contents

1. General.....	3
2. What is Weave? .....	3
3. Lead Agency Principle .....	4
3.1. How to choose the Lead Agency .....	4
4. Which countries/regions are involved? .....	4
5. ARIS as Lead Agency.....	5
6. ARIS as Partner Agency .....	6
6.1. Project Duration (Slovenian part of the Weave research project) .....	7
6.2. Cost calculation (Slovenian part of the Weave research project) .....	7
6.3. Submitting a proposal of the Weave research project.....	8
6.3.1. Submitting the joint (main) proposal of the Weave research project at the Lead Agency	8
6.3.2. Submitting the application of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project at ARIS	9
6.3.2.1. Entities eligible to apply.....	10
6.3.2.2. Application documentation .....	11
6.3.2.3. Means and form of application.....	11
6.3.2.4. Application submission deadline .....	11
6.3.2.5. Conditions for submitting an application .....	12
6.3.2.5.1. Entry conditions .....	12
6.3.2.5.2. Other conditions .....	14
6.3.2.5.3. Fulfilment of entry and other conditions.....	15
6.4. Evaluation procedure, funding threshold, and method of (co)financing by ARIS.....	15
6.5. Withdrawal/discontinuation of co-financing of the national/regional part of the Weave research project by the Lead/Partner Agency .....	16
6.6. Open access to reviewed scientific publications and web access to information about the research project .....	18
6.7. Science Communication .....	19
7. Contacts .....	20

**This document “Weave - Information for applicants” (version No. 8) is an English translation of the document “Weave – Informacije za prijavitelje” (verzija št. 8) that applies to and is used for all applications of the Slovenian part of Weave research projects submitted according to this information from 2nd June 2025 onwards.**

**The Slovenian Research Agency reserves the right to change or amend the document “Weave - Information for applicants”.**

## 1. General

Based on Article 34 of the Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act<sup>1</sup> in connection with Article 12 of ZZrID and on the basis of Articles 83 and 102 of the General Act on Procedures for Financing, Co-Financing, Evaluating and Monitoring the Implementation of Scientific Research Activities<sup>2</sup>, Methodology for evaluating applications in procedures for (co)financing of scientific research activities<sup>3</sup> in connection with Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement<sup>4</sup> the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (hereinafter: ARIS) publishes on its website more detailed information for applicants regarding the application for the conclusion of a contract on implementation and (co)financing of scientific research activity by ARIS.

Signatories to the Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement, including ARIS, have committed to consider proposals submitted under the Weave scheme either as Lead Agencies or as Partner Agencies.

## 2. What is Weave?

Weave is a financing scheme developed by European research funders to support excellent collaborative research projects across borders (hereinafter: Weave research project).

Weave aims to simplify the submission and selection procedure of Weave research proposals involving researchers from up to three European countries or regions through a single evaluation of the proposals, which reduces the administrative burden for the applicants of Weave research projects. Moreover, Weave enables researchers to collaborate across borders.

Following the Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement, two or three research funding agencies from different countries/regions enable researchers to submit a joint proposal for the Weave research project at the Lead agency, i.e. the research funding agency responsible for carrying out the evaluation process of the joint proposal of the Weave research project.

The coordinating applicant submits a joint Weave research project proposal to the Lead Agency under the conditions set by the Lead Agency. A Weave research project can be bilateral or trilateral. Other co-applicants submit the application of their national/regional part of the Weave research project to the Partner Agencies under the conditions set by the Partner Agencies.

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<sup>1</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 186/21, 40/23 and 102/24, hereinafter: ZZrID.

<sup>2</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 166/22 and 92/24, hereinafter: General act on (co)financing procedures.

<sup>3</sup> No. 6319-5/2022-5 of 9 January 2023, No. 6319-5/2022-6 of 17 January 2023 – corr., No. 6319-5/2022-7 of 19 June 2023, No. 6319-5/2022-8 of 13 November 2023, No. 6319-5/2022-9 of 18 December 2023, No. 6319-5/2022-10 of 4 March 2024, No. 6319-5/2022-11 of 29 May 2024, No. 6319-5/2022-12 of 9 September 2024, No. 6319-5/2022-13 of 23 September 2024, No. 6319-5/2022-16 of 29 October 2024, No. 6319-5/2022-17 of 13 January 2025, No. 6319-5/2022-18 of 3 March 2025, No. 6319-5/2022-20 of 24 March 2025 and No. 6319-5/2022-21 of 24 April 2025, hereinafter: Methodology.

<sup>4</sup> Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement (MLA), No. 020-5/2020-1, hereinafter: Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement.

Weave makes use of existing funding schemes open to national/regional research projects and to Weave project proposals under the Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement. Agencies involved in (co)funding Weave research projects only provide funding within their national or regional borders.

### 3. Lead Agency Principle

Weave is based on the Lead Agency principle. According to the Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement, two or three agencies from different countries enable researchers to jointly apply for a Weave research project to the Lead Agency, i.e. to the agency that conducts the evaluation process of the joint proposal of the Weave research project. The principle of the Lead Agency presents a significant administrative relief for applicants of Weave research projects, as the **evaluation process** of joint proposals for Weave research projects is **carried out only by the Lead Agency**. When the joint proposal of the Weave research project is assessed as successful in the evaluation process and is proposed for (co)funding by the Lead Agency, the participating **Partner Agencies generally recognise the results of the evaluation process** and take over the (co)funding of its national/regional parts of the Weave research project without an additional evaluation process.

Co-applicants who have agreed to submit a joint proposal for a Weave research project determine a coordinating applicant, who submits the joint proposal of the Weave research project to the Lead Agency. The other co-applicants have to submit a copy of the joint proposal of the Weave research project and an application to their respective national/regional funding agency (Partner Agency) under the conditions set by the Partner Agency.

#### 3.1. How to choose the Lead Agency

Co-applicants can freely choose the Lead Agency. All co-applicants are expected to make significant and complementary contributions to the joint Weave research project. A joint Weave research project proposal must have a common research question and a common research plan, and each national/regional part of the joint research project must be closely related and complementary. The scientific contribution of each co-applicant must be clearly visible.

### 4. Which countries/regions are involved?

ARIS is one of twelve European research funding agencies<sup>5</sup> that signed the Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement in 2020 for (co)financing scientific bilateral or trilateral Weave research projects with the possibility of other Partner Agencies joining in the future.

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<sup>5</sup> ARIS, DFG, FNR, Formas, FRS-FNRS, FWF, FWO, GAČR, HRZZ, NCN, RCN, SNSF; [www.weave-research.net](http://www.weave-research.net).

The signatories of the Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement committed themselves to establishing mutual cooperation within the framework of the Weave scheme within the five-year transition period. That being said, the Weave scheme will be rolled out gradually, meaning that all possible combinations of cooperation will not be possible immediately, but will be rolled out gradually.

The updated status of possible collaboration combinations between selected partners is available on the Weave website: [www.weave-research.net](http://www.weave-research.net).

Within Weave, ARIS currently directly co-operates with the partner agencies stated in Table 1.

*Table 1. List of funding agencies in cooperation with ARIS with their acronyms*

Austria	FWF – The Austrian Science Fund
Belgium / Flanders	FWO – Research Foundation Flanders
Czech Republic	GAČR – Czech Science Foundation
Croatia	HRZZ - Croatian Science Foundation
Luxembourg	FNR – Luxemburg National Research Fund
Poland	NCN – National Science Centre
Switzerland	SNSF – Swiss National Science Foundation
Germany	DFG – German Research Foundation

**Cooperation according to the Lead Agency principle in the Republic of Slovenia is possible in two ways, specifically:**

- **ARIS can act as the Lead Agency (Chapter 5 of this information) or**
- **ARIS can act as a Partner Agency (Chapter 6 of this information).**

## 5. ARIS as Lead Agency

Applicants in Slovenia can submit their proposal for a joint Weave research project with partners from either one or two of the countries/regions (listed in Table 1) to the **national call for research projects** where ARIS acts as the Lead Agency. Joint applications are currently possible in cooperation with partners from the countries/regions listed in Table 1.

**More information including conditions, possible collaborations, and submission procedure on calls in which ARIS acts as Lead Agency are available on the ARIS webpage: <https://www.aris-rs.si/en/progproj/rproj/>**

## 6. ARIS as Partner Agency

When ARIS is acting as the Partner Agency the submission of **bilateral** joint proposals of Weave research projects is possible with Austria (FWF), Croatia (HRZZ), Czech Republic (GAČR), Flanders (FWO), Luxembourg (FNR), Poland (NCN), Switzerland (SNSF) and Germany (DFG), and the submission of **trilateral** joint proposals of Weave research projects is possible in combinations listed in Table 2.

The joint bilateral Weave research project is funded by the Lead Agency and ARIS as a Partner Agency. The joint trilateral research project is funded by the Lead Agency, ARIS as a Partner Agency, and a collaborating third Partner Agency. In both cases, each agency finances its national/regional part.

Table 2. Possible trilateral submissions for joint Weave projects (ARIS as Partner Agency)

Lead Agency / Country (+ ARIS as Partner Agency)	Additional Partner Agency / Country
Austria (FWF)	Luxembourg (FNR), Poland (NCN), Switzerland (SNSF), Czech Republic (GAČR), Flanders (FWO), Germany (DFG)
Croatia (HRZZ)	Switzerland (SNSF), Czech Republic (GAČR)
Czech Republic (GAČR)	Austria (FWF), Luxembourg (FNR), Germany (DFG), Poland (NCN), Switzerland (SNSF), Croatia (HRZZ)
Flanders (FWO)	Austria (FWF), Luxembourg (FNR), Germany (DFG), Poland (NCN), Sweden (FORMAS), Switzerland (SNSF), Wallonia (FRS-FNRS)
Luxembourg (FNR)	Austria (FWF), Czech Republic (GAČR), Flanders (FWO), Poland (NCN), Germany (DFG), Switzerland (SNSF), Sweden (FORMAS), Wallonia (FRS-FNRS)
Poland (NCN)	Luxembourg (FNR), Switzerland (SNSF), Czech Republic (GAČR), Flanders (FWO), Germany (DFG), Austria (FWF)
Switzerland (SNSF)	Austria (FWF), Croatia (HRZZ), Czech Republic (GAČR), Flanders (FWO), Germany (DFG), Luxembourg (FNR), Poland (NCN), Sweden (FORMAS), Wallonia (FRS-FNRS)
Germany (DFG)	Luxembourg (FNR), Flanders (FWO), Austria (FWF), Czech Republic (GAČR), Poland (NCN), Switzerland (SNSF)

For updated collaboration combinations please consult with the agency that acts as Lead Agency on a given call, the ARIS, or check the website <https://weave-research.net/find-your-funding/>.

## 6.1. Project Duration (Slovenian part of the Weave research project)

The duration of the Weave research project depends on which agencies are involved in the Weave research project joint proposal. The maximum duration allowed is defined under the rules of the call published by the agency acting as the Lead Agency or is determined by the agency that allows the shortest project duration.

Information regarding the maximum project duration of the Weave research project can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3. Maximum Weave project duration (ARIS as Partner Agency)

Austria (FWF)	Up to 4 years
Croatia (HRZZ)	Up to 3 years
Czech Republic (GAČR)	Up to 3 years
Flanders (FWO)	Up to 4 years
Luxembourg (FNR)	Up to 3 years (up to 4 years, if doctoral students included)
Poland (NCN)	Up to 4 years
Switzerland (SNSF)	Up to 4 years
Germany (DFG)	Up to 3 years

## 6.2. Cost calculation (Slovenian part of the Weave research project)

Individual national/regional research parts of the Weave project are separately (co)funded by each national/regional research funding agency according to its own rules. The costs or requested funds of each national/regional part of the Weave research project are calculated by the guidelines of the research funding agency – co-financer that finances the individual national/regional part of the Weave research project.

For the Slovenian part of the Weave research project with ARIS as a Partner Agency, the following must be considered:

1. Eligible project costs are determined following the Regulation on the financing of scientific research activities from the Budget of the Republic of Slovenia<sup>6</sup>.
2. In the application, the applicant must state the total amount of requested (co)funding for each national/regional part of the Weave research project expressed in EUR. In the process, ARIS takes into account that the amount of requested funds of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project stated in the joint application of the Weave research project is converted into EUR at the exchange rate published by the Lead Agency. If the Lead Agency does not publish an exchange rate, the

<sup>6</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 35/22, 144/22 and 79/23, hereinafter: Regulation.



conversion will be done at the rate published by the Bank of Slovenia<sup>7</sup> on the first day when it is possible to apply for the Slovenian part of the Weave joint research project to ARIS.

The amount of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project stated in the application submitted to ARIS must be the same as the amount of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project stated in the joint application of the Weave research project. If ARIS finds a data discrepancy between the application form submitted to ARIS and the joint application submitted to the Lead Agency regarding the requested funds of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project, which is greater than the permitted deviation of +/- 3% in relation to the amount stated in the application submitted to ARIS, ARIS considers the amount that is lower, while simultaneously taking into account the maximum amount of (co)financing of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project.

The amount of requested funds relating to the Lead Agency and the possible third partner country must be the same in the application submitted to ARIS and in the joint application of the Weave research project. In the event that ARIS finds a discrepancy between this data, it considers the amount/amounts from the joint application of the Weave research project, which was submitted to the Lead Agency. The conversion of the stated amounts of requested funds in EUR from the joint application of the Weave research project is carried out in the same way and under the same conditions as determined for the conversion of the amount of requested funds of the Slovenian part of the joint Weave research project from the joint application of the Weave research project.

3. The funding requested in total (for the entire period of implementation of the Weave research project) is converted by the ARIS into the equivalent of full time employment (FTE) at the valid price of the equivalent of full-time employment (FTE) on the day of adoption of the director of the ARIS decision and is authoritative for the entire period of (co)financing of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project. The volume of financial resources is coordinated with the valid price of the equivalent of full-time employment for one year.

4. ARIS (co)finances the Slovenian part of the Weave research project considering budgetary options in the financial plan and work programme of the ARIS, taking into account the assessment of the joint application for the Weave research project in the evaluation process with the Lead Agency.

5. ARIS (co)finances the Slovenian part of the Weave research project only if all participating Partner Agencies accept their national/regional part of the joint Weave research project for (co)financing.

### 6.3. Submitting a proposal of the Weave research project

#### 6.3.1. Submitting the joint (main) proposal of the Weave research project at the Lead Agency

Joint proposals for Weave research projects must be prepared by the formal guidelines of the Lead Agency<sup>8</sup>. Both or three parts of the Weave research project must have a common research question

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<sup>7</sup> Daily exchange rates - ECB reference rates.

<sup>8</sup> See Table 1.

and a common research plan, and each national/regional part of the joint research project must be closely related and complementary. The scientific contribution of each co-applicant must be clearly visible.

More detailed information regarding the process of submitting a joint application for a Weave research project is available on the websites of agencies that can act as a Lead Agency (stated in Table 4).

Table 4. Information on joint proposal submission

Lead Agency	Website
Austria (FWF)	<a href="https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/funding/portfolio/international-collaborations/slovenia">https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/funding/portfolio/international-collaborations/slovenia</a>
Croatia (HRZZ)	<a href="https://hrzz.hr/programi/medunarodna-suradnja/">https://hrzz.hr/programi/medunarodna-suradnja/</a>
Czech Republic (GAČR)	<a href="https://gacr.cz/mezinardoni-aktivita/weave/">https://gacr.cz/mezinardoni-aktivita/weave/</a>
Flanders (FWO)	<a href="https://www.fwo.be/en/support-programmes/all-calls/senior-researchersresearch-teams/weave-fwo-lead/">https://www.fwo.be/en/support-programmes/all-calls/senior-researchersresearch-teams/weave-fwo-lead/</a>
Luxembourg (FNR)	<a href="https://www.fnr.lu/international-cooperation/weave/">https://www.fnr.lu/international-cooperation/weave/</a>
Poland (NCN)	<a href="https://www.ncn.gov.pl/en/finansowanie-nauki/konkursy/typy/1">https://www.ncn.gov.pl/en/finansowanie-nauki/konkursy/typy/1</a>
Switzerland (SNSF)	<a href="https://www.snf.ch/en/j3eRKmgqlrepqJnT/funding/projects/weave-lead-agency">https://www.snf.ch/en/j3eRKmgqlrepqJnT/funding/projects/weave-lead-agency</a>
Germany (DFG)	<a href="http://www.dfg.de/lead_agency_weave/en">www.dfg.de/lead_agency_weave/en</a>

### 6.3.2. Submitting the application of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project at ARIS

Before submitting the application for the Slovenian part of a Weave research project, please consult the following applicable legislation and regulations:

- ZZrID<sup>9</sup>,

<sup>9</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 186/21 and 40/23.

- General act on (co)financing procedures<sup>10</sup>,
- Regulation<sup>11</sup>,
- Methodology<sup>12</sup>,
- Criteria for determining compliance with the demonstration of internationally comparable research results and the period covered by internationally comparable research results for the head of the research project and programme<sup>13</sup>,
- Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement<sup>14</sup>,
- Rules on state aid in the field of scientific research activity<sup>15</sup>

**CLARIFICATION:** All applications submitted within the individual deadline for (co)financing the Slovenian part of the Weave research project with an individual foreign Lead Agency are subject to the **legislation and regulations in force on the date of the opening of the individual deadline** for (co)financing the Slovenian part of the Weave research project with an individual foreign Lead Agency.

#### 6.3.2.1. Entities eligible to apply

The applicants for the Slovenian part of a Weave research project can be either research organisations registered in the Database of providers of scientific research activity (hereinafter referred to as: the RO database) or private researchers registered in the register of private researchers that is kept by the ARIS, and that meet the requirements set out in the ZZrID and general acts of the ARIS.

The Slovenian part of the Weave research project is carried out by a project group comprising the project leader, researchers, and technical associates.

If there are several providers of research activities collaborating on the Slovenian part of the Weave research project, the applicant is the parent RO. The parent RO is the RO that submits the application of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project to the ARIS, is listed first on the ARIS application form<sup>16</sup>, and employs the project leader of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project upon signing the contract on implementation and (co)financing of scientific research activity.

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<sup>10</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 166/22, 92/24 and 102/24.

<sup>11</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 35/22, 144/22 and 79/23.

<sup>12</sup> No. 6319-5/2022-5 of 9 January 2023, No. 6319-5/2022-6 of 17 January 2023 – corr., No. 6319-5/2022-7 of 19 June 2023, No. 6319-5/2022-8 of 13 November 2023, No. 6319-5/2022-9 of 18 December 2023, No. 6319-5/2022-10 of 4 March 2024, No. 6319-5/2022-11 of 29 May 2024, No. 6319-5/2022-12 of 9 September 2024, No. 6319-5/2022-13 of 23 September 2024, No. 6319-5/2022-16 of 29 October 2024, No. 6319-5/2022-17 of 13 January 2025, No. 6319-5/2022-18 of 3 March 2025, No. 6319-5/2022-20 of 24 March 2025 and No. 6319-5/2022-21 of 24 April 2025, hereinafter: Methodology

<sup>13</sup> No. 007-14/2024-4 of 22 May 2024 and 007-14/2024-5 of 24 May 2024, hereinafter: Criteria.

<sup>14</sup> Multilateral lead Agency Agreement (MLA,) No. 020-5/2020-1.

<sup>15</sup> No. 007-2/2024-1 of 7 March 2024 hereinafter: Rules on state aid.

<sup>16</sup> See point 6.3.2.2. of this information.

#### 6.3.2.2. Application documentation

When ARIS acts as a Partner Agency, the application of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project to ARIS must contain the following completed and signed forms and documents:

- application form WEAVE-“LEAD AGENCY ACRONYM”/year<sup>17</sup>, available on the ARIS DigitalForms web portal (<https://digitalforms.aris.si/>) (hereinafter: the application form),
- other required forms, which are determined by ARIS on the application form WEAVE-“LEAD AGENCY ACRONYM”/year,
- a copy of the joint application form of the Weave research project submitted to the Lead Agency.

#### 6.3.2.3. Means and form of application

The application for the Slovenian part of the Weave research project must be completed and submitted electronically to the ARIS DigitalForms web portal (<https://digitalforms.aris.si/>).

A submitted application is deemed formally complete if it is signed digitally (no digital signature certificate is required) by the applicant's representative (or authorised person) and the project leader of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project. The application is considered formally complete if it is submitted using the prescribed forms and contains all the required information and attachments, as defined in item 6.3.2.2. of this information. Incomplete applications will be processed in accordance with Article 22 of the General Act on (co)financing procedures.

#### 6.3.2.4. Application submission deadline

The deadline for submitting the application of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project depends on the choice of the Lead Agency and the involved partner agencies.

Information regarding the deadlines for submission of the joint proposal of the Weave research project to each Lead Agency is available on the dedicated Weave website: [www.weave-research.net](http://www.weave-research.net) and at the links listed in Table 4.

When submitting the Slovenian part of the Weave research project application, the following must be considered:

1. The **joint proposal** of the **Weave research project** must be submitted to the **Lead Agency** under the conditions and by the deadline set by the Lead Agency.

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<sup>17</sup> The ARIS application form for each respective Lead Agency call where ARIS acts as a Partner Agency is named in the following way: WEAVE- “LEAD AGENCY ACRONYM”/year, where “LEAD AGENCY ACRONYM” stands for the acronym of cooperating agencies (see Table 1) and “year” stands for the year when the Lead Agency call is published by the Lead Agency. For example, the ARIS application form named WEAVE-FWO/2025 must be used for the Slovenian part of the Weave research project in which FWO is acting as the Lead Agency in connection with the call launched by FWO in 2025.

2. **The application for the Slovenian part of the Weave research project and a copy of the joint proposal of the Weave research project must be submitted to ARIS** (see item 6.3.2. of this information) **no later than seven days after the deadline set by the Lead Agency for submitting the joint application for the Weave research project.** In the case of **permanently open calls with the Lead Agency**, the application for the Slovenian part of the Weave research project and a copy of the joint proposal for the Weave research project must be submitted to ARIS **no later than seven days** after the submission of the joint proposal for the Weave research project to the Lead Agency.

The application of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project is considered timely if it is completed, signed and submitted on the ARIS DigitalForms web portal, as specified in item 2 of the previous paragraph of this information.

The opening of applications for the Slovenian part of the Weave research project takes place no later than eight days from the expiration of the deadline for submitting applications of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project or, in the case of permanently open calls, no later than 30 days from the receipt of applications of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project. The ARIS' Official opens the electronic applications of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project by recording the list of applications received within the electronic application system and evidence that the applications were late. In the case of an untimely application, ARIS informs the applicant of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project by means of an accompanying letter that it will not further process the untimely application.

#### 6.3.2.5. Conditions for submitting an application

##### 6.3.2.5.1. Entry conditions

The applicant of the application for the Slovenian part of the Weave research project (hereinafter: the applicant) must be an eligible entity (in accordance with item 6.3.2.1. of this information).

The project leader of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project (hereinafter: the project leader) must have a researcher ID, which means that he or she is registered in the RO database or the register of private researchers at ARIS. The project leader, who does not yet have an assigned researcher ID, must (in order to gain access to the DigitalForms web portal) complete and submit a form for obtaining a researcher ID to the ARIS in time, which must be accompanied by a statement on the intention of employment, signed by the applicant and the project leader.

The project leader must have an education obtained from a third-level study programme or an education that corresponds to the level of education obtained from a third-level study programme and, in accordance with the law governing the Slovenian qualifications framework, is ranked at level 10, and demonstrate internationally comparable research results which are in accordance with the ZZrID, the General act on (co)financing procedures, the Criteria, and the Methodology, and are established if the project leader successfully defended doctoral dissertation and was granted a scientific title PhD in a (1) third-level study programme or a study programme that corresponds to the

third-level study programmes, and obtained education which in accordance with the law governing the Slovenian qualifications framework (SQF) is ranked at level 10; (2) study programme for obtaining education equivalent to level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) if it was obtained in one of the countries of the European Higher Education Area; (3) study programme for obtaining education comparable to level 8 of the EQF if it was obtained in other countries from outside of the European Higher Education Area and the comparability was established by the national authority responsible for recognizing foreign qualifications.

The project leader can only be a researcher who, on the day the deadline for submission at the Lead Agency expires (in the case of permanently open calls, the day of submission of the joint proposal of the Weave research project at the Lead Agency), is the leader of only one project, which is (co)financed in an amount greater than € 50,000 per year, whereby the annual amount of (co)financing refers to the year when the research project is carried out throughout the duration of the whole year. This limitation also includes research projects with an extended deadline for completion, based on Article 81 of the General act on (co)financing procedures.

A researcher may apply to ARIS as a project leader for one research project only within each open call of the agency acting as the Lead Agency. In the case of permanently open calls at the Lead Agency, one application to ARIS per researcher and per individual call in the evaluation procedure determined by the Lead Agency at the same time is allowed.

Researchers who have received a negative grade on a final report for a project - in which they were project leaders in the period of three years prior to the year when the applications for the Slovenian part of the Weave research project were enabled - cannot apply as project leaders on this call.

The research project may only be a basic research project.

The period of implementation of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project may be a maximum of four years<sup>18</sup>.

The Slovenian part of the Weave research project may not exceed € 150,000 per year for projects lasting two or three years, and € 112,500 per year for projects lasting four years.

The joint proposal of the Weave research project must be submitted to the agency acting as Lead Agency. A joint Weave research project proposal must have a common research question and a common research plan, and the national/regional parts of the joint research project must be closely related and complementary. The scientific contribution of each co-applicant must be clearly visible. The joint proposal of the Weave research project must meet the conditions set by the agency acting as Lead Agency and potential participating third Partner Agency. The project leader and the applicant of each national/regional part of the Weave research project, indicated in the joint proposal of the Weave research project submitted to the Lead Agency, must be the same as the project leader and the applicant of each corresponding national/regional part of the Weave research project, indicated in the application of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project.

Applicants of research projects, who submitted applications indicating that research project implementers are participating as companies (in the public, higher education, business or private non-

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<sup>18</sup> See Table 3.

profit sectors) must, in accordance with Rules on state aid, submit also a signed and stamped completed form for awarding state aid ARIS-DP-LA-xxxx<sup>19</sup>. Based on Article 4 of Rules on state aid, companies are legal or natural persons that carry out economic activity and operate in the field of scientific research activity or carry out activities related to scientific research activity, and meet the conditions set out in ZZrID, General act on (co)financing procedures and the Regulation.

#### 6.3.2.5.2. Other conditions

Members of the project group of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project (hereinafter: members of the project group) must have a researcher ID at the ARIS, which means that they must be entered into the RO database or the register of private researchers at ARIS.

The project leader and members of the project groups must have available capacities regarding effective research hours to carry out the Slovenian part of the Weave research project (the maximum permitted capacity for full-time employment is 1700 effective research hours or one FTE) and must be employed by the RO that will carry out the Slovenian part of the Weave project, or have the status of private researcher.

The project leader must have at least 170 effective research hours (0.1 FTE) available annually. A project group member (except for young researchers, doctoral students, financed by other sources, retired researchers, who may participate in the project with 0 hours) must (on the day the project starts) participate with at least 34 effective research hours (0.02 FTE) available annually. The heads of public research institutes can also participate in the Slovenian part of the Weave research project with 0 effective hours of research work.

The project leader must be employed in at least 20% of full-time capacity at the RO in the Republic of Slovenia carrying out the Slovenian part of the Weave research project.

The participating RO must be registered in the RO register or register of private researchers and must collaborate with at least 170 effective research hours during the period of the implementation of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project, whereby the minimum amount of RO collaboration is 170 effective research hours per annum. During the Slovenian part of the Weave research project's implementation, the number of hours rendered annually by the participating RO can be 0.

The applicant must have a signed agreement with the other participating RO on the regulation of mutual rights and obligations.

The Weave joint research project proposal must be ranked among the 20% best-rated research projects in the evaluation process of the Lead agency's call (considering the exception stated in paragraph 3 of point 6.4. of this information) and all participating partner agencies must accept the national/regional part of the Weave joint research project for (co)financing. ARIS will (co)finance the Slovenian part of the Weave research project only if the research project is accepted for (co)financing by the Lead Agency and all participating partner agencies.

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<sup>19</sup> Where "xxxx" stands for the year when the call is published by as the Lead Agency.



#### 6.3.2.5.3. Fulfilment of entry and other conditions

Entry conditions (item 6.3.2.5.1.) must be fulfilled on the day of the deadline determined in the Lead Agency call or, in the case of permanently open calls, on the day of each opening of applications for the Slovenian part of the Weave research project. Only with regard to the entry condition from the fourth paragraph of item 6.3.2.5.1 of this information, in the case of permanently open calls, the day that applies is the day of submission of the joint proposal of the Weave research project at the Lead Agency. Evidence regarding the fulfilment of the conditions from the tenth paragraph of item 6.3.2.5.1 are acquired by ARIS from the Lead Agency. If the entry conditions of item 6.3.2.5.1. are not met, the application will be rejected.

Other conditions (item 6.3.2.5.2.) must be fulfilled when the contract on implementation and (co)financing of scientific research activity is concluded, except for the condition of free capacity regarding the effective hourly research work of the project leader and members of the project group, which is checked annually, and bearing in mind that this condition for the project leader and members of the project group must be met on the day the project starts. If the conditions from item 6.3.2.5.2. are not met, the contract on implementation and (co)financing of scientific research activity will not be concluded, regardless of the decision issued by the director on the selection of the application for (co)financing, by which the application is selected for (co)financing.

### 6.4. Evaluation procedure, funding threshold, and method of (co)financing by ARIS

Only timely and complete proposals that meet the entry conditions from item 6.3.2.5.1. and the entry conditions of the Lead Agency and other Partner Agencies involved will be included in the evaluation process.

The evaluation process will be managed by the respective Lead Agency by its own rules and existing funding schemes. Based on the Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement and considering budgetary options ARIS (co)finances the participation of applicants in Weave research projects, which are ranked among the 20% best-rated research projects ((co)financing threshold) in the Lead Agency's call and are accepted by all participating Partner Agencies for (co)financing.

Exceptionally, in accordance with the Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement, it is also possible to finance projects that are positively assessed but do not reach the 20% (co)financing threshold, if all involved Partner Agencies agree on that. The implementation of the evaluation process is taken over by the agency acting as Lead Agency.

After the evaluation process is completed, the Lead Agency informs ARIS about the results of the evaluation process and provides it with a list of applications that are recommended for (co)funding. Applications recommended for funding by the Lead Agency are considered by the scientific council of ARIS. The scientific council of ARIS considers that only applications accepted for (co)financing by all participating Partner Agencies can be (co)financed. Applications for which all participating Partner Agencies have not yet given their consent to (co)financing are considered by the scientific council of



ARIS under a condition precedent. The condition precedent is fulfilled by obtaining the consent of the Partner Agencies. The final decision regarding the (co)financing of applications is taken by the director of the ARIS based on the proposed decision of the ARIS scientific council.

A contract on the implementation and (co)financing of scientific research activity is concluded by the ARIS with the selected applicant, which regulates in detail the method of (co)financing and other rights, obligations, and responsibilities of the contracting parties.

### 6.5. Withdrawal/discontinuation of co-financing of the national/regional part of the Weave research project by the Lead/Partner Agency

Changed circumstances are circumstances which affect the successful implementation of a scientific research activity. Whenever one or more Partner Agencies withdraw from or discontinue the (co)financing of the national part of the Weave research project, it is regarded that changed circumstances occurred.

Changed circumstances may occur before or after the conclusion of a contract on implementation and (co)financing of scientific research activity.

In the given case, ARIS will act according to the **Rules and the conduct procedure in the case of withdrawal/discontinuation of (co-)financing of the national part of the Weave research project by one or more Partner Agencies**, Version 2.0, Number: 007-4/2024-4 of 8 May 2024, available on the ARIS web page ARIS – <https://www.arrs.si/sl/obvestila/24/pravila-odstop-financ-WEAVE.asp>.

1. If changed circumstances occur **before the conclusion of a contract** on implementation and (co)financing of scientific research activity (in the given case it means the Lead Agency and all the participating Partner Agencies have not accepted the Weave research project for financing), it means that due to the failure of meeting the conditions from item 6.3.2.5.2, a contract on implementation and (co-)financing of scientific research activity will not be concluded, regardless of the decision issued by the director on the selection of the application for (co)financing, by which the application is selected for (co-)financing. In this case, ARIS draws up a letter informing the applicant that according to applicable regulations, Multilateral Lead Agency Agreement and information for Weave applicants/public call, a contract on (co)financing between the applicant and ARIS will not be concluded.

2. If changed circumstances occur **after the conclusion of a contract** on implementation and (co)financing of scientific research activity, the applicant must inform ARIS of the changed circumstances by the deadline determined by the above-mentioned contract (if the applicant informs ARIS after the deadline, it is considered that the applicant's use of funds was not as intended by the contract). The applicant is particularly required to explain why their contractual obligations were not fulfilled (e.g. the obligation to inform ARIS), submit evidence if available and explain with well-founded reasoning and concrete examples why the changed circumstances prevent further and undisturbed

implementation of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project in accordance to the concluded contract on implementation and (co-)financing of scientific research activity.

Possible consequences:

- temporary discontinuation of (co)financing of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project – if ARIS assesses that the changed circumstances prevent further and undisturbed implementation of the project in accordance to the concluded contract on implementation and (co)financing of scientific research activity, and that there is a possibility that the applicant may eliminate the discovered irregularities or deviations by the determined deadline and report on this to ARIS;
- discontinuation of further implementation of activity and (co)financing, whereby the applicant is not required to return the funds which have already been paid out – if ARIS determines that the implementation of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project based on the contract on (co)financing cannot be successfully carried out by the deadline due to the objective circumstances.

After the applicant's response has been received, the Rules on monitoring the implementation of basic, applied and postdoctoral research projects are meaningfully used to establish the facts and assess the evidence.

Competent authorities (ARIS science and research councils, ARIS scientific council, ARIS Director) must assess in particular whether changed circumstances prevent further undisturbed implementation of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project according to the concluded contract on implementation and (co)financing of scientific research activity. The duration of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project, after one or more Partner Agencies stopped (co-)financing their national parts of the Weave research project, is one of the circumstances being assessed by ARIS competent authorities.

If the ARIS science and research council, in accordance with the Rules on monitoring the implementation of basic, applied and postdoctoral research projects, issues a negative evaluation which is then confirmed by the ARIS scientific council, the director adopts a reasoned decision and forwards it to the applicant.

ARIS may adopt the following decisions:

- it may withdraw from the contract on (co)financing and demand the repayment of all funds as well as the lawful late payment interests from the transfer date to the refund date – if ARIS assesses that the applicant will not finish the Slovenian part of the Weave research project successfully due to failure of fulfilment or breach of contractual provisions, and the applicant has not eliminated the discovered irregularities or deviations by the deadline;
- it may discontinue further implementation of the activity and (co)financing, whereby the applicant is not required to return the funds already paid out – if ARIS determines that the

implementation of the Slovenian part of the Weave research project based on the contract on (co)financing cannot be successfully completed by the deadline due to objective circumstances<sup>20</sup>;

- it may decide that the implementation of the contract on (co)financing will continue.

## 6.6. Open access to reviewed scientific publications and web access to information about the research project

In accordance with Article 41 of ZZrID and Articles 2 and 3 of the Regulation on the implementation of scientific research in accordance with the principles of open science<sup>21</sup>, all peer-reviewed scientific publications resulting from the Slovenian part of the Weave research project must be published in open access together with all the related research data and other research results.

In accordance with the first indent of the first paragraph of Article 3 of the Regulation on Open Science, the open access is implemented in such a way that the machine-readable digital format of the published version of the scientific publication (VoR) or reviewed manuscript (AAM) accepted for publication is saved in a trustworthy repository for scientific publications. A trustworthy repository is a repository which is certified or regional repository or some other repository which is trusted by researchers. A scientific publication must also contain data on (co)financer or (co)financers and a project number in accordance with Article 82 of the General act on (co)financing procedures, as well as information on the share of co-financing from public sources in accordance with Article 1 of the Regulation on Open Science.

Open access costs (APC or BPC costs), including the costs of creating scientific publications and other results of scientific research, are eligible costs of the scientific research activities.

Authors of scientific publications or their employers, whenever the copyrights have been transferred to them, may transfer the copyrights over scientific publications to third persons only on a non-exclusive basis. Authors of scientific publications or their employers, whenever the copyrights have been transferred to them, must, in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 6 of the Regulation on Open Science, publish scientific publications under open licence, e. g. CC BY, CC BY-SA or their equivalents.

After the application has been selected for (co)financing, the applicant must create a website or subpage on their RO's website dedicated to the project and enabling the dissemination of its results.

The minimum requirements of the website content are:

- a description of the project's content with basic information on (co-)financing,
- a link to the data in the SICRIS system,
- Data Management Plan and its updates, and

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<sup>20</sup> Circumstances that could not be foreseen, prevented, eliminated or dealt with are considered objective circumstances to avoid.

<sup>21</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 59/23, hereinafter: Regulation on Open Science.

- a reference to the ARIS logo and the logos of other (co-)financers.

Content included in the SICRIS system should be linked and need not be provided twice. The webpage presenting the project must remain active for five years after the project has been completed. The implementer reports on the establishment of the webpage in the interim and final reports on the implemented project's results.

In accordance with Article 4 of the Regulation on Open Science the project must include a **Data Management Plan** (hereinafter: **NRRP**) which must be submitted to **ARIS within at least 6 months after the beginning of project's implementation**. If any changes occur, an updated NRRP must be submitted in the interim and final reports and published on the project's webpage. Obligatory NRRP content is available [here](#) (in Slovene).

According to Article 4 of the Regulation on Open Science, the "FAIR" principle is applied to open access to research data together with the principle "as open as possible and as closed as necessary". With regard to the way and timeliness of saving as well as accessibility of research data and other research results in digital format, the first and second paragraphs of Article 5 of the Regulation on Open Science need to be considered.

## 6.7. Science Communication

The objective of scientific research activity implementation is to guarantee progress and well-being of the whole society. Therefore, it is important to appropriately explain the scientific research results to citizens and (political) decision-makers. It is important that scientific discoveries are interpreted and presented by the researchers themselves who best understand the meaning of their scientific research and discoveries, and that this is being done in an appropriate way, so that their information will be understandable and convincing to lay persons. The project must, therefore, include communication activities through which the (interested) public will not only be appropriately presented with the results of individual projects, but will also be enabled to have an insight into the research field addressed by the project in such a way that the level of knowledge on the subject and the level of understanding are increased. The latter is particularly important when providing information to political decision-makers. The researchers must possess the communication skills and knowledge needed to appropriately implement science communication activities.

The project must, therefore, include a Plan of communication activities (hereinafter: the Communication Plan) which will have to be submitted to ARIS within at least 6 months after the beginning of the project implementation and will have to include various audiences. In the case of changes, an updated Communication Plan must be submitted in the interim and final reports.

Communication activities may also include the activities intended to train researchers for science communication activities, but they are not limited exclusively to education activities.

## 7. Contacts

Please also consult the official Weave website: [www.weave-research.net](http://www.weave-research.net).

Contact persons for clarification of procedures when ARIS acts as a Partner Agency are listed in Table 5.

Table 5. Contact information for questions on ARIS as Partner Agency procedures

Slovenia (ARIS)	Aleksandra Panič (FWF, HRZZ, FNR, NCN) <a href="mailto:aleksandra.panic@aris-rs.si">aleksandra.panic@aris-rs.si</a> +386 400 5924
	Lucija Učakar Petrovčič (GAČR, FWO, SNSF, DFG) <a href="mailto:lucija.ucakar-petrovcic@aris-rs.si">lucija.ucakar-petrovcic@aris-rs.si</a> +386 400 5944

Contact persons for clarification of procedures when other Partner Agencies act as the Lead Agency are listed in Table 6.

Table 6. Contact information for questions on Lead Agency procedures (FWF, HRZZ, GAČR, FWO, FNR, NCN, SNSF and DFG as the Lead Agency)

Austria (FWF)	Dr. Christoph Bärenreuter
	<a href="mailto:christoph.baerenreuter@fwf.ac.at">christoph.baerenreuter@fwf.ac.at</a>
	+43 (0)1 / 505 67 40 – 8702
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	<a href="mailto:milan@hrzz.hr">milan@hrzz.hr</a>
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Czechia (GAČR)	Bc. Simon Crowe
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Flanders (FWO)	Tinne Jacobs
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Germany (DFG)	<a href="mailto:weave@dfg.de">weave@dfg.de</a>

Tjaša Dobnik,  
Director

No.: 5110-1/2023-16  
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