

CEUS – Central European Science Partnership

Lead Agency Agreement

Memorandum of Understanding on the unilateral administration and mutual recognition of evaluation procedures

1. Preamble

The Austrian Science Fund (Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung, FWF), the Czech Science Foundation (Grantová agentura České Republiky, GA ČR), the National Science Centre (Narodowe Centrum Nauki, NCN) and the Slovenian Research Agency (Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost Republike Slovenije, ARRS) agree to prospectively make use of a unilateral evaluation procedure for bi- or multilateral research projects among partners from the four countries involved. The results of the evaluation procedure subsequently shall be accepted by the respective other partner organization(s), presupposed that the decision body of the partner organization(s) approve(s) of the result.

2. Reviewing applications for integrated, bi- and multilateral research projects

The Memorandum at hand shall apply to bi- and multilateral research projects which, due to their international character, promise to yield an increased scientific added-value which could not be achieved if the respective project parts were carried out independently.

Procedural Principles:

1. The joint project application is submitted to one of the partners which as a consequence acts as the Lead Agency. The partners agree on the principle that a partner acts as the Lead Agency for a Joint Research Project only if a substantial financial contribution to the Project is requested from this partner by the applicants. Further details will be specified separately by the partners in mutually agreed guidelines. The application must follow the application guidelines of the Lead Agency.

2. The application consists of a joint scientific description of the project, delineating the scientific contributions of the respective partners. Cost calculations must be stated separately for each national part of the project and must follow the guidelines of the respective national funding agency.
3. Once the application is submitted, the Lead Agency informs the partner organization of the application and asks for a formal check of the respective national project part. If the formal criteria of one of the funding agencies are not met, the application is considered as being rejected by all funding agencies involved
4. The Lead Agency administers the evaluation process in accordance with its standard procedures that apply for the respective funding programme. The partner agencies agree on an international peer review procedure.
5. The Lead Agency forwards the result of the review process to the partner organization(s) (funding/rejection), including complete reviews and/or any other documents and information relevant to decision making. The partner organisation(s) assure(s) the confidential treatment of this information.
6. The partner organisation(s) present(s) the result of the review process to its decision body and asks for the confirmation of the Lead Agency's decision. Should the decision of the Lead Agency not be followed, an explanation for this must be provided to the Lead Agency.
7. If no agreement can be reached between the partner organisations, the application is considered as being rejected.
8. After a decision has been reached, the involved agencies inform the applicants of the outcome.
9. In the case of approval, project parts will be financed by the respective funding agency in accordance with its standard practices.
10. Intermediary and final reports will be carried in accordance with national guidelines.

Further administrative details on the implementation of the CEUS Lead Agency agreement will be laid down in Guidelines. Any changes to this Memorandum of Understanding must be made in written form. The Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force upon its signing by all parties and has a duration of three years. In case of GA ČR, the Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force after the government's approval. In case of FWF, the Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force after its approval by the FWF Executive Board. GA ČR and FWF will notify partner agencies immediately. Its validity will be extended automatically, unless one of the parties decides to cancel the co-operation. A cancellation has to be forwarded in written form at least six months before the desired date of cancellation to the partner agency. The parties agree to evaluate the co-operation regularly.

On behalf of

Austrian Science Fund, FWF

Czech Science Foundation, GA ČR

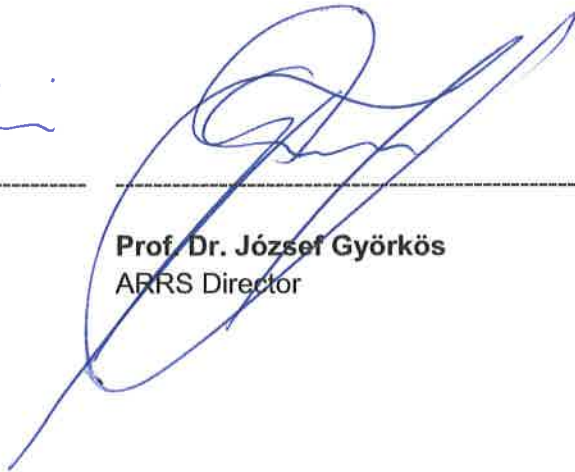


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Signed in Vienna, 17 June 2019