



Cooperation Agreement

between the

Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)

and the

São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP)

(referred to as "Partner Organisations")

on a

Lead Agency Procedure

for

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

1. Preamble

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

The present agreement aims to:

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

2. Evaluation of Bilateral Projects

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

The Evaluation Procedure is guided by the following principles:

- 1.) The Partner Organisation in charge of the Evaluation Procedure acts as the Lead Agency. The Partner Organisations take turns as Lead Agency on a yearly basis.
- 2.) The responsible applicant based in the country that acts as Lead Agency submits the overall application according to the application guidelines of the Lead Agency.
- 3.) The Lead Agency informs the Partner Organisation of the application and asks it to conduct a formal check of the respective national project part. Bilateral Projects that fail to meet the formal requirements of either Organisation are not considered for evaluation. The Lead Agency informs the Partner Organisation about the outcomes of the formal check and the decisions thereof.
- 4.) The Lead Agency conducts the Evaluation Procedure in accordance with its standard procedures that apply for the respective funding instrument. The Partner Organisation is invited to propose reviewers. The Lead Agency informs the external reviewers that their names and reviews may be communicated to the Partner Organisation. The Partner Organisation assures the confidential treatment of this information.
- 5.) The Lead Agency forwards the result of the review process to the Partner Organisation (decision to fund/not to fund), including the complete, non-anonymised reviews. The Partner Organisation assures the confidential treatment of this information.
- 6.) In case of a positive funding decision, the Partner Organisation presents the result of the review process and the decision of the Lead Agency to its decision-making body and asks for the confirmation of the Lead Agency's decision. The Partner Organisation does not conduct its own evaluation, but confirms the decision of the Lead Agency.
- 7.) If exceptional circumstances prevent the Partner Organisation from following the decision of the Lead Agency, it has to provide an explanation to the Lead Agency. If Lead Agency and the Partner Organisation cannot reach an agreement, the proposal is considered as rejected.
- 8.) The Lead Agency and the Partner Organisation inform the applicants of the result of the evaluation and the funding at the same time.
- 9.) In case of a positive funding decision, each the Lead Agency and the Partner Organisation each provide the amount of their project contribution directly to the applicant of the respective country, according to their applicable rules.
- 10.) Both Lead Agency and Partner Organisation require interim and final reports on the project according to their applicable rules.
- 11.) All applicants take responsibility for the correctness of their contributions. If the project plan is not written in accordance with the rules of good scientific practice all applicants are accountable and the project may not be considered. Reference is made to internationally recognised standards on good scientific practice.

This Agreement comes into effect with its ratification by the organisations involved. It is valid for 5 years from the date of signature. An extension is subject to a positive evaluation of the procedure. Proposals submitted before the date of the termination of This Cooperation Agreement will be considered eligible, and, if approved, shall receive funding until their completion. An earlier termination of the contract is

possible with 6 months' notice, and even in this case, all proposals shall continue to receive funding until their completion.

Each party validly signs the final version of the agreement and keeps the original in its files. Each party sends a scan of the signed agreement to the other party and confirms receipt, both by Email. With the confirmation of receipt, both parties accept the agreement to be legally binding.

FAPESP

SNSF

Signature:

Signature: 

Marco Antonio Zago
President

Prof. Matthias Egger
President of the Research Council

Date:

Date: 18.8.2020

Signature: 

Dr. Angelika Kalt
Director

Date: 18.8.2020

