

ANR-NSF bilateral cooperation in the framework of ICC and MWN

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*BILAT-USA Symposium “Ways of successful science,
technology and innovation cooperation between Europe
and the USA”
23-24 April 2012*

French National Research Agency (ANR)

- A public organisation:

Devoted to competitive project-based funding
in both fundamental and applied research
and based on international standards

- Objectives:

- ✓ promoting **creativity**
- ✓ bringing more **flexibility** and, subsequently, **reactivity**
- ✓ increasing **competitiveness** while maintaining a good balance between fundamental research and applied research

- 2011 budget: **728 M€**

ANR – Key figures

- Instruments:
 - ✓ **55 - 60 calls for proposals** /year (in average)
- **Peer-review evaluation** of projects:
 - About:
 - ✓ **6 000** projects submitted yearly (6 237 in 2011)
 - ✓ **1 300** projects funded yearly (1 260 in 2011)
 - ✓ Success rate: **20.5%** in average for 2011
- Substantial **funding** to the selected projects:
 - ✓ Academic Projects: <430 k€>
 - ✓ Public-Private Partnership Projects: <870 k€>

ANR-NSF Collaboration

- Since **2009**: ANR participation in two NSF international programmes:
 - ✓ **MWN**: Materials World Network
 - 5 co-funded projects, ~3 M€ of funding (1.6 M€ from ANR)
 - ✓ **ICC**: International Cooperation in Chemistry
 - 6 co-funded projects ~4 M€ of funding (1.9 M€ from ANR)
- Cooperation implemented within ANR **Blanc international programme**
- Goals:
 - ✓ Funding high-level **French-US collaborative research projects in the field of Chemistry and Materials** and reinforce French-US cooperation in those fields

Modalities of collaboration

- **Separate submission:**
 - ✓ Submission of proposals in parallel to ANR and NSF, with separate templates, call texts, modalities and deadlines:
 - NSF:
 - MWN: One-step submission, deadline: mid-November
 - ICC: Two-step submission, pre-proposals deadline: early November (eligibility)
 - ANR: One-step submission. Blanc programme usually launched in October and closed in January
 - *Necessity to inform the community beforehand*
- **Separate evaluation:**
 - ✓ Peer review on each side (ad-hoc reviews and/or panel evaluation meeting)
 - ✓ Common selection meeting
 - ✓ Joint funding decision
- NSF evaluation earlier. However all proposals must go through ANR process, even the proposals that received a low rating on NSF side
- As far as possible: **Exchange of ad-hoc reviews and panel reviews**
 - ✓ ANR reviews feed NSF decision process
 - ✓ NSF reviews feed ANR panels

Room for improvement?

- **Different calendars:** low flexibility on both sides
- **Double evaluation/”double jeopardy”**
 - ✓ Share and exchange of ad-hoc reviews and panel reviews
 - Confidentiality issue
 - Depending on programme directors, practices...
 - ✓ Amendments to existing MoU
 - Legal framework for exchange of reviews and tackling confidentiality issues
- **Extension of projects** (discussed)
- **Follow-up of projects** (on-going discussions)

Challenges

- Other **European countries** participate (or have participated) in ICC and MWN calls:
 - ✓ MWN: Austria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Netherlands, UK...
 - ✓ ICC: Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, UK...
- **Different modalities:**
 - ✓ ICC example:
 - Netherlands (NWO): classical lead agency process (submission to NSF, evaluation by NSF: NWO proposes reviewers, NWO follows NSF decision)
 - Luxembourg (FNR) and Austria (FWF): process handled by NSF but FNR and FWF make their own funding decision
 - France (ANR): double submission / evaluation
- Possibility to constitute a “critical mass” on European side to **co-discuss** and **co-construct** the call with NSF, to have a consensus (**inter-agency discussions**) on the way to collaborate within ICC and MWN?
- Keep the **bilateral model** but a unique way to cooperate? (lead agency model vs double submission / evaluation model to be improved)

Thank you for your attention!

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