



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



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Switzerland

Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Programme

Joint Research Projects: Call for Proposals 2014-2015

Opening date: 15.12.2014
Closing date: 16.03.2015

1. Introduction

The Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Programme was initiated by the Korean and Swiss governments in 2008 in order to further step-up the bilateral cooperation in scientific and technological areas of relevance to both countries. The cooperation is based on the principles of shared interests, scientific excellence and bilateral funding (matching funds).

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and the Korean National Research Foundation (NRF) were mandated to launch a call for Joint Research Projects (JRPs), organise the evaluation of the submitted proposals and monitor the funded projects.

2. Joint Research Projects

Grants for JRPs are meant to promote collaborative projects with clearly defined goals involving at least one partner based in Switzerland and one based in Korea. Applications should describe ambitious research and propose innovative approaches. The research is to be carried out at the research facilities involved; reciprocal visits and short stays in Switzerland for researchers from Korea and vice versa are also possible within the scope of a JRP.

Project duration: the JRPs can last up to 3 years.

3. Research fields

In order to make targeted use of the financial resources available, the following thematic areas were chosen for this call:

- Neuroscience
- Molecular physics
- Technologies and methodologies for big data science

Proposals outside the thematic areas defined above will not be accepted.

4. Eligibility

Each proposal for a JRP must have at least one main applicant based in Switzerland and one main applicant based in Korea; they are the lead scientists on the Swiss and the Korean side respectively. They bear the main responsibility for the project including its technical and administrative coordination as well as timely delivery of scientific and financial reports. Further applicants based in Switzerland and/or in Korea can also participate in the consortia.

Eligibility criteria in Switzerland

The SNSF eligibility criteria apply to applicants requesting funding. Furthermore, each applicant/co-applicant can only apply for one project.

Eligibility criteria in Korea

Korean applicants should abide by the applicable laws and regulation of the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP).

5. Funding

JRP proposals contain two separate budgets: one budget in CHF for the Swiss part (paid by the SNSF according to the SNSF's rules) and one budget in KRW for the Korean applicant(s) (paid by the NRF according to the NRF's rules). Both countries agreed to fund up to 12 projects if a sufficient number of high quality proposals are submitted. Typically, the funding per project is sufficient for each side to finance the salary of a PhD student for three years or the salary of a postdoc for two years as well as consumables, some minor equipment and the mobility costs related to the project.

Eligible costs in Switzerland

The maximum allowed budget for a project is of CHF 250,000.

The funding categories are:

- **Equipment:** costs of material of enduring value (indicate manufacturer, type and distributor). Quotations – if possible, from different competitors – must be enclosed for items whose purchase price exceeds CHF 20,000-.
- **Research funds:** funds needed to carry out the project, such as travel costs, room and board costs, field expenses, expendable items and unavoidable sundry expenses. The SNSF does not finance the acquisition or maintenance of expendable items that are part of the infrastructure of an institution (books, PCs, rental costs, etc.).
- **Salaries:** the funding is sufficient to finance the salary of a PhD student for three years or the salary of a postdoc for two years (salaries for main or co-applicants are not eligible).
- **Social security contributions**

The SNSF regulations apply to the Swiss budget. However, overhead costs are not admissible.

Eligible costs in Korea

Please abide by the applicable laws and regulations of the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP).

Visiting costs between Switzerland and Korea

When budgeting visits between the Swiss and Korean partners, all expenses (international travel related expenses, living expenses, Health/medical overseas insurance) are to be charged to the budget of the visiting side.

6. Submission

Proposals are to be jointly prepared by Swiss and Korean applicants. They must be submitted by the Swiss main applicant to the SNSF via its electronic submission system (*mysnf*, www.mysnf.ch). The Korean partners should also submit the same proposal through Korea's national electronic submission system (ernd.nrf.re.kr). Proposals that are only submitted to one of the two funding agencies are ineligible.

No hard copies will be accepted. The call process is highly competitive, therefore an application does not guarantee funding. Only positively rated applications will be considered for funding. Neither the SNSF nor the NRF will be held responsible for non-submission of an application.

Submission on mySNF: After login into mySNF, the correct funding scheme must be chosen (Programmes (national and international) > Bilateral Cooperation (Initiatives of the State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation) > Korean-Swiss Science and Technology Programme (KSSTP)).

The application consists of two parts:

- The administrative part, which must be completed online
 - Personal data of the Swiss main applicant
 - Personal data of the Korean main applicant
 - Personal data of the co-applicant(s) from Switzerland and/or Korea
 - Basic data of the project (e.g. title, field of research, starting date, duration, summary)
 - Declaration stating whether the application is use-inspired
 - Funding requested from the SNSF
 - Information on authorisations required in Switzerland
 - Other information (e.g. whether the project is related to other SNSF projects, the name of the Swiss university/research institution at which the planned project will be implemented, information on national and international collaborations, statement concerning already available funds or funds requested elsewhere)
- PDF documents that are to be uploaded to *mySNF*
 - The research plan (must have the structure indicated in Annex 1)
 - The CVs and publication lists of all applicants and other researchers involved
 - Equipment quotes, if applicable
 - Other documents

For specific questions related to www.mysnf.ch, please contact the support team by e-mail (mysnf.support@snf.ch) or telephone (+41 31 308 22 00). Please note that you need a user account in order to submit proposals via *mySNF*. To open an account, please register with the SNSF as a user. Applicants with existing user accounts need not apply for new ones.

Deadline for submission of applications: 16.03.2015 (midnight CET). Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Language: all the information provided in the administrative part and all uploaded documents must be in English.

7. Evaluation

Peer review: proposals for JRPs will be reviewed according to international peer review standard procedures, jointly organised by the SNSF and the NRF. The peer review experts are designated by the members of the evaluation panel. These external experts do a peer review of the applications in a score system, verifying the scientific quality of JRPs.

Evaluation panel: an evaluation panel will be set up; it will be composed of experts proposed by the SNSF and the NRF. Based on the peer reviews, the evaluation panel will assign each project to one of six evaluation categories. Recommendations will include rationale. Priority will be given to applications in the highest categories regardless of the research area.

Decision: at the SNSF, the rating effected by the evaluation panel will need to be approved by the Specialised Committee for International Co-operation and the Presiding Board. At the NRF, it will be approved by MSIP. Finally, the SNSF and the NRF will present a consolidated recommendation to the Korea-Switzerland Science and Technology Joint Committee. This body will take the final decision.

Evaluation criteria: (not listed in the order of priority)

- Scientific relevance and interest
- Originality of the aims and objectives
- Appropriateness of the methodology
- Experience and past performance of applicants
- Competence of research partners with respect to the project
- Complementary qualities of research partners
- Feasibility of the project

The evaluation results will be communicated to the applicants in autumn 2015. The Swiss main applicant will receive a decision letter from the SNSF. In case of rejection, the main reasons leading to the decision will be given. In case of approval, the Swiss budget and the conditions will be listed. If applicable, the Swiss main applicant will be responsible for transmitting the decision to the other Swiss applicants. The Korean main applicant will be informed by the NRF.

Starting date for the JRP in Korea: 1 November 2015

Starting date for the JRP in Switzerland: between 1 November 2015 and 1 March 2016

It is advisable that the JRPs in Switzerland also start on 1 November 2015.

8. Reporting

Swiss and Korean project partners will report separately to the SNSF and the NRF respectively. Scientific and financial reports are to be submitted annually.

In Switzerland:

The Swiss main applicant will be responsible for the reporting to the SNSF. Both for the financial and the scientific report, the standard SNSF regulations will apply. However, scientific reports will need to be submitted annually. They include a qualitative and a quantitative part (output data).

9. Payments

In Switzerland (SNSF funding):

The standard SNSF rules apply. In principle, the budgets for JRPs are transferred in annual instalments to the Swiss PI at the beginning of a project year.

10. VAT

In Switzerland (SNSF funding):

The JRP grants are not subject to VAT or other taxes and charges. However, research expenses are not excluded from VAT. Therefore, all costs budgeted in a JRP (e.g. equipment, consumables, etc.) can be charged to the programme, VAT included, unless the research institution (e.g. universities, public research organisations, etc.) is able to recover the VAT.

11. Publications and intellectual property

The PIs are obliged to publish research results generated by the JRPs in appropriate form and according to SNSF and NRF standards.

Intellectual property rights belong to the respective researchers and/or their employing institutions. It is the responsibility of each research partner to ensure the efficient protection and proper distribution of any intellectual property arising from the accomplishments of the joint research projects.

12. Further information and contacts

In Switzerland

Swiss National Science Foundation
Andrea Landolt
International Co-operation division
Wildhainweg 3, P.O. Box 8232
CH-3001 Berne
E-mail: andrea.landolt@snf.ch or international@snf.ch
Website: www.snsf.ch

In Korea

Wonkeun CHOI
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02-3460-5722
onekeun@nrf.re.kr

Annex 1: Guidelines for writing the research plan (scientific part of the proposal)

The research plan should be organised in 5 sections (2.1.–2.5.), preceded by a summary (1.). We kindly ask you to use the section headings indicated below. The proposals will be sent out for external review. In order to ensure that the scientific content of your proposal can be adequately assessed, please provide a detailed research plan which sets out clearly the aims, objects and methods of the project you are planning.

1. Summary of the research plan (max. 8,000 characters)

Should include the most important features of your research plan and place your project in a broader scientific context. This summary should be an exact copy of the one you have written in the *mySNF* data container “Basic data II”.

2. Research plan

The research plan must not exceed 20 pages and 80,000 characters including blank space, figures, tables, formulae and references. The font size should be 10 pt with a line spacing of 1.5. In general, appendices are to be avoided.

2.1 Current state of research in the field

By citing the most important publications in the relevant field, please set out the scientific background and basis of the project, explain the need to perform research on the topic you propose and briefly describe important research currently being conducted internationally.

2.2 Current state of own research and partnership aspect

- Please describe briefly the work done by the different applicants in the relevant research field or in related fields and indicate the relevant publications.
- Explain how the different applicants complement each other for the proposed research project.
- Describe past collaborations that involved the Swiss and Korean partners (if applicable).

2.3 Detailed research plan

Information on aims, rationale, methods and data

Against the background described in sections 2.1. and 2.2., please state the aims that you plan to attain during the lifetime of the project. Please consider the following points:

- Which investigations and / or experiments do you plan to carry out / are necessary to attain the stated aims?
- What is the rationale for getting the project started and how will the work most likely develop later on?

Information concerning the methods necessary to attain the aims:

- Which are the methods available to you?
- To which other methods do you have access and how?
- Which methods need to be developed?

Data and data collection:

- Which data are available to you and from where?
- Which data need to be collected?

2.4 Work division, schedule and milestones

- Please indicate how you plan to divide the work among the different partners.
- As far as possible, please give an approximate schedule for the work to be carried out within the project and indicate the most important milestones. In particular, please describe the major tasks of the staff to be employed within the project by the different partners.
- List the planned visits between the Swiss and Korean research groups (visiting scientist, hosting scientist, purpose of visit, date and duration of visit).

2.5 Importance, impact and results

Scientific importance and impact

Please describe briefly the importance of your research for the scientific community and the impact you expect from the project on research and training/teaching in your field/discipline.

Please indicate how you will publish/communicate your results.

Expected results and dissemination plan

Describe in detail the project outcomes you envisage. Explain how you will share these findings with stakeholders and the community. Address the potential for knowledge transfer to industry (if applicable).

Broader impact

If you have indicated (on *mySNF*) that your application involves use-inspired research, please state whether and to what extent the proposed project will have a broader impact and what this impact will be. The following points should be addressed:

- Need for research as perceived by practitioners/industry: are there any knowledge gaps? Are innovations and improvements expected?
- Transferability of results: to what degree can research results be put into practice?
- Other potential impacts: in which spheres outside science could the implementation of the research results entail changes and what is the nature of these changes?

3. Ethical, safety and regulatory issues

Does your proposed work raise ethical, safety or regulatory issues? If yes, how will you deal with them?

Research part carried out in Switzerland

Please fill in the data container “Research requiring authorisation or notification” in *mySNF*.

Research part carried out in Korea

Please indicate required authorisation or notification.

4. List of ongoing and/or recent research projects between the Korean and Swiss applicants

Project title	Research area	Project duration (xx/yy/zz - xx/yy/zz)	Amount of funds & funding source

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5. Planned visits

5.1 Korea to Switzerland

	Visiting scientist(s)	Period & duration of visit	Purpose of visit
1st year			
2nd year			
3rd year			

5.2 Switzerland to Korea

	Visiting scientist(s)	Period & duration of visit	Purpose of visit
1st year			
2nd year			
3rd year			

6. Requested funds

Korean applicant (in KRW)

Year	Equipment	Research funds	Salaries	Social security contributions	Total
1st year					
2nd year					
3rd year					
TOTAL					

Swiss applicant (in CHF)

These figures should be the same as those you indicated in the *mySNF* data container “Requested Funding”

Year	Equipment	Research funds	Salaries	Social security contributions	Total
1st year					
2nd year					
3rd year					
TOTAL					